

and applied science in the Island, the holding of an annual session and the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Membership in the association consists of three classes: foundation members, sessional members and student members.

D. N. Wadia, mineralogist of the Ceylon Government and a former president of the Indian Science Congress, was elected general president of the association, and Dr. V. Gabriel, senior surgeon, General Hospital, Colombo, was chosen the president-elect.

For the purpose of discussion at the annual session the following sections have been formed: (1) *Medical and Veterinary Sciences*, President, Professor W. A. E. Karunaratne; (2) *Agriculture*, President, Dr. R. V. Norris; (3) *Engineering*, President, Professor R. H. Paul; (4) *Natural Sciences*, President, The Very Reverend Fr. M. J. Le Goc; (5) *Physical Sciences*, President, Professor A. Kandiah. Officers for an additional section, in which psychology, social sciences and education will be included, had not yet been elected.

It is proposed to hold the first session of the association as early as possible in the coming year.

"GENERA ET SPECIES PLANTARUM ARGENTINARUM"

THE first volume of this great projected work appeared late in 1943 under the editorship of Dr. Horacio R. Descole, director of the Instituto Lillo of the University of Tucuman, and published by Guillermo Kraft Ltda., Buenos Aires. An elephant folio of three hundred and seventeen pages with four-inch margins, bound in natural finished buckram, its format and typography are somewhat in the classical tradition of such works as "Flora Brasiliensis." Volume I contains comprehensive treatments of the Argentine representatives of three families: the Zygophyllaceae, by H. R. Descole, C. A. O'Donnell, and A. Lourteig; the Cactaceae, by A. Castellanos and H. V. LeLong, and the Euphorbiaceae, by A. Lourteig and C. A. O'Donnell. One hundred and eight pages of line drawings, ten pages of colored plates and fifteen pages of photographs with twenty distributional maps illustrate and supplement the discussions of these families. Appended are eleven colored plates of "Ícones Plantarum Argentinarum."

Dr. Descole informs me that Volumes II and III will be published this year, one of them dealing exclusively with Argentine Gramineae by Dr. Castellanos. Additional volumes are in preparation. Apparently contributions by foreign botanists will, in certain instances at least, be included since the treatment of the genus *Nicotiana* is to be prepared in this laboratory.

The character and quality of the first volume of this outstanding contribution to South American botany is a tribute to the stature and maturity which

plant taxonomy and geography have attained in Argentina and to the enthusiasm and scholarship of Dr. Descole and his associates in the Instituto Lillo.

T. H. GOODSPEED

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THE MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

DUE to conditions brought about by the war the customary fall meeting and outing of the Minnesota Academy of Science have been dispensed with again this year.

The twelfth annual meeting convened on April 22 at the University of Minnesota. The following officers were elected for the year 1944-45: *President*, Dr. Charles Sheard, Mayo Foundation, Rochester; *Vice-president*, Dr. John E. Anderson, University of Minnesota; *Councilor*, 1944-1948, Sister Magna Werth, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph. As retiring president of the academy Dr. George A. Thiel, University of Minnesota, became a member of the council for two years.

At the general morning program of the annual meeting three papers dealing especially with the post-war era were read.

The afternoon was devoted to the programs of the various sections. Dr. Dwight E. Minnich, of the department of zoology of the University of Minnesota, was chairman of the Section for Biological Science, at which nine papers were presented. Seven papers were read before the Section for Physical Science, with Andrew Hustrulid, agricultural engineering, University Farm, St. Paul, presiding. O. A. Nelson, Central High School, St. Paul, was chairman of the Section for Science Education, where five papers were read. The Section for Social Science, of which Dr. Lowry Nelson, sociology, University Farm, St. Paul, was chairman, heard reports from seven men of the University of Minnesota staff on "The Impact of the War on Red Wing, Minnesota." These men and others are making a comprehensive study of Red Wing as it has been affected by the war.

Tallies at the registration desk indicated an attendance of over 160.

Simultaneously the Minnesota Junior Academy of Science held its seventh annual meeting. The newly elected officers were: *President*, Miss Jean Drum, North High School, Minneapolis; *Vice-president*, Bruce Clark, St. Cloud Technical High School; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Miss Theresa Mulrean, St. Cloud Technical High School. Wesley Zimmerman, Paynesville High School, and Jack Anderson, Stillwater High School, were chosen for American Association for the Advancement of Science awards for 1944 because of their meritorious work in science. Ten papers were presented at the morning session. The afternoon was devoted to observing science exhibits, the showing of science movies and a tour of the Nat-

ural History Museum of the University of Minnesota conducted by William Kilgore, curator.

April 21, 1945, has been selected as the date for the next annual meeting of the academy.

JOHN W. MOORE,
Secretary

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

At a meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held at Boston on the evening of November 8, a symposium was presented on "Blood and Blood Derivatives in War and Peace" at which the following papers were read:

"Blood Is a Very Special Juice" (—Goethe, *Faust*), Dr. Edwin J. Cohn.

"The Use of Blood and Blood Derivatives in Medicine," Dr. Charles A. Janeway.

"The Use of Blood Derivatives in Surgery," Dr. Francis D. Ingraham.

This report by members of the faculty of the Harvard Medical School concerned chemical, clinical and immunological work carried on by a large group of investigators whose cooperative endeavors during the war have greatly advanced knowledge regarding blood and its uses. The research has been carried forward with the cooperation of the National Research Council, the American Red Cross, the Massachusetts Antitoxin and Vaccine Laboratory, and other agencies and institutions, under contract as recommended by the Committee on Medical Research, between the Office of Scientific Research and Development and Harvard University.

There was an exhibit of the blood and blood derivatives that are being distributed to the Armed Forces.

MEETINGS OF MATHEMATICIANS

THE fifty-first annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society will be held at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, on November 24 and 25, in conjunction with meetings of the Mathematical Association of America.

Sessions of the society will begin on Friday at 2:00 P.M. and continue through Saturday afternoon. Sessions of the association will be held on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. All sessions will be held in the west lecture hall of the museum.

The eighteenth Josiah Willard Gibbs Lecture will be given on Friday at 7:45 P.M., by Professor John von Neumann, of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J. The title of this lecture is "The Ergodic Theorem and Statistical Mechanics."

On Saturday at 2:00 P.M., by invitation of the Program Committee, Professor Will Feller, of Brown University, will deliver an address on "Limit Theorems in the Theory of Probability."

The annual business meeting and election of officers will be held on Saturday at 9:30 A.M. Following this the winner of the Cole Prize in Algebra will be announced and the recipient will give a résumé of the prize-winning memoir.

The Board of Trustees will hold its regular annual meeting at 6:00 and the council will meet at 9:00 P.M. on Friday at the Hotel Windermere East.

There will be a dinner for the two organizations and their guests at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday at Hotel Windermere West.

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

ELEVEN representatives of science and industry have been placed in nomination for the presidency of the American Chemical Society. The candidates were proposed by the local sections of the society, of which there are a hundred and six in all parts of the country. The choice will be made by mail ballot of the 40,000 members of the society. The nominees are:

Dr. Leason H. Adams, director of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Colonel Bradley Dewey, president of Dewey and Almy Chemical Company, Cambridge, Mass., formerly Rubber Director; Dr. Gustav Egloff, director of research of Universal Oil Products Company; Dr. Clifford Cook Furnas, director of the Airplane Division Research Laboratory of Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Buffalo, N. Y.; Dr. Milton Harris, director of research at the Textile Foundation, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Joel Henry Hildebrand, dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of California; Dr. W. Albert Noyes, professor of chemistry at the University of Rochester; Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, president of the Western Precipitation Corporation, Los Angeles; Dr. Eugene Paul Schoch, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Texas; Dr. Lee Irvin Smith, professor and chief of the Division of Organic Chemistry of the University of Minnesota; Dr. Charles Allen Thomas, central research director, Monsanto Chemical Company, Dayton, Ohio.

The nominee who receives the largest vote will become president-elect on January 1, 1945, and president on January 1, 1946. Professor Carl Shipp Marvel, of the University of Illinois, the present president-elect, will assume the presidency on January 1 next, succeeding the late Thomas Midgley, Jr.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AN Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm dated November 9 reports that the Nobel Prize in physics for 1943 has been awarded to Dr. Otto Stern, research

professor of physics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, who has now leave of absence to enable him to engage in research for the Govern-