

# Association Affairs

## Meeting of Southwestern Division

The first postwar meeting of the Southwestern Division, AAAS, was held in Colorado Springs, May 1-3, in conjunction with the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science. Societies meeting in association with the Division were the Clearing House for Southwestern Museums, the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Colorado-Wyoming Social Science Association, the Rocky Mountain Branch of the American Psychological Association, the New Mexico Academy of Science, and the Colorado College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Colorado College served as host institution, all the meetings being held on its campus.

A total of 158 papers covering a wide field of effort were presented in the 11 sections as follows: Bacteriology, 9; Plant Science, 30; Zoology, 16; Anthropology-Archaeology, 6; Education, 4; Psychology, 15; Social Science, 4; Chemistry, 25; Geology-Geography, 33; Physics, 13; and the American Association of Physics Teachers, 3. A comparison of the total of 350 officially registered scientists with the 158 papers presented shows that many persons attended only to listen and learn. This feature of educating the nonspecialist to what the researcher is doing is often overlooked by those presenting papers. All too frequently the speaker, no doubt because of time limitations, starts off in the middle of the subject, assuming equal familiarity with his specialty on the part of his listeners. The result is that no one is educated except specialists in his own field.

It may well be assumed that many who present papers at scientific meetings would not attend if they were not on the program, since their papers, if real contributions to science, would eventually be published and made available to scientists generally. One frequently hears the comment that because scientific sessions are too technical to be understood it is unnecessary to attend them, and that the chief value in attendance lies in the people

one meets and talks to in the corridors. If this is true, more attention should be given to demanding that papers submitted for presentation be truly informative to the nonspecialist, to keeping the number of papers down, and to giving each speaker sufficient time not only to present new facts but also to lay a foundation for his subject. At present it is difficult to find cities willing and able to serve as hosts to large conventions. Would it not be wise to reduce the number of papers, require that they be truly informative, and thus bring science to the community in which the meeting is being held?

A high light of the meeting was the annual John Wesley Powell Lecture, delivered by John H. Manley, executive secretary of President Truman's General Advisory Committee to the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and a former head of the research division, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. His address was entitled "One Atom and Many."

The address of the retiring president, H. P. Mera, given following the annual dinner, was entitled "Archaeological Research in the Southwest." This stressed the importance of using the findings of archaeological research to guide future actions of man in order to avoid the catastrophes causing the disappearance of previous civilizations. He warned against a mere multiplication of findings of things already known by excavations of sites similar to those studied by previous workers.

Officers elected were: F. H. Douglas, Denver Art Museum, president; Ernst Antevs, Globe, Arizona, vice-president; H. P. Mera, Santa Fe, and Edna L. Johnson, Boulder, members of the Executive Committee. An invitation from President Edward Eyring, New Mexico Highlands University, to meet in Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1948 was accepted. A second Alpine Texas meeting for 1949 was also approved following invitations from President R. M. Hawkins, of Sul Ross State College, and Otto Struve, honorary director, McDonald Observatory. The 1949 meeting will be especially interesting, since various societies in Chihuahua, Mexico, have joined in the invitation and

assured us of their cooperation, offering to serve as hosts for an excursion into Old Mexico after the formal sessions. The first Alpine meeting was held in 1939 on the occasion of the dedication of the McDonald Observatory on Mt. Locke, at which time both the college and the observatory served as hosts.

At the conclusion of the meeting guests joined excursions offered to study "The Geology of the Pikes Peak Region," "The Manitou Experimental Forest," or "The Watersheds East and North of Colorado Springs." (FRANK E. E. GERMANN, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Southwestern Division.)

## Meeting of Pacific Division

The 28th annual meeting of the Pacific Division, AAAS, was held in San Diego, California, June 16-21, 1947, with 970 registered members and guests in attendance. This, the second San Diego meeting of the Division, was held at the invitation of the San Diego Council of Technical and Scientific Societies, Society of Natural History, State College, and Zoological Society, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, and 11 other scientific and technical organizations and institutions in the area. Headquarters were established at the U. S. Grant Hotel, and meetings were held there and at the San Diego Hotel, in the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, at San Diego State College, and in church and school auditoriums.

The general sessions began on the afternoon of June 16 with a symposium on "The Pacific Basin." K. O. Emery spoke on "The Submarine Geology of Bikini Atoll," H. U. Sverdrup took as his topic "Oceanography and Meteorology," and J. L. Kask discussed economic and international aspects of the Pacific fisheries under the title "Who Harvests the Pacific?"

At 4:30 P.M. a reception for members of the Association and associated societies and their guests was held in the Palm Court of the U. S. Grant Hotel.

The symposium on "The Pacific Basin"