

Association Affairs

Section on Botanical Sciences (G)

The interest of botanists in the Chicago meetings is attested by the fact that, of the space in the *General Program* devoted to the programs of the sections and societies, over one-fifth was devoted to the botanical groups. Taking into consideration the division of the larger programs into sections, 18 distinct botanical programs had been arranged. When to these are added the 14 programs of the various societies which include both botanists and zoologists, supported in considerable part by botanists, over a third of the total program was of interest to students of the plant sciences. Under such circumstances, it was inevitable that numerous meetings had to be scheduled concurrently. This has always been the case in recent years, but it seems to have been more conspicuously the case at the Chicago Meeting than at any of the earlier ones.

In accordance with the current trend, many joint meetings and symposia had been arranged. Such sessions serve to offset, at least in some degree, the tendency to extreme specialization by informing specialists as to what is being done in related fields and especially by encouraging the development of borderline investigations. Among such symposia may be mentioned that on "Genetics of Microorganisms," sponsored by the American Society of Naturalists in cooperation with 8 other groups and presenting recent knowledge in this field relating to viruses, bacteriophage, bacteria, and fungi. That on "Mathematical Biology," arranged by the Biometric Section, American Statistical Association, in cooperation with the Biometric Society, occupied four sessions. The traditional program of Section G with affiliated plant societies was arranged as a symposium on growth and correlation. The numerous other symposia were in general more limited in their scope, but with few exceptions afforded opportunity to workers in two or more different fields to learn something of what is going on in others.

At the opposite extreme were some of the more specialized programs. The Botanical Society of America, now operating through 5 sections, had as many as 6 meetings going on at one time, and the meetings of the American Phytopathological Society were somewhat similarly split up into groups concerned with special topics. In the case of a few of the smaller societies, all the meetings were held jointly with other groups.

As usual, the Biologists' Smoker, held in the Chicago Natural History Museum on Monday evening, afforded an excellent opportunity for informal discussion and renewal of acquaintanceship. (G. W. MARTIN, *Secretary*.)

The Chicago Meeting, December 26-31, 1947

From all reports, the Chicago Meeting was one of the most successful in the history of the Association. Secretaries of the 67 cooperating sections and societies, thus far reporting to the Washington office, have been unanimous in their expressions of appreciation not only of the high quality of the different programs but also of the physical facilities placed at their disposal by their Chicago hosts and the general atmosphere of good fellowship.

In the headlong rush of events during the 6-day meeting period, few members pause to reflect upon the organization of the meeting unless something goes wrong, for it is traditional to expect those privileged to serve on local committees to accept their full responsibilities and to carry them out to perfection. It is equally traditional that committee volunteers expect no reward other than the opportunity to facilitate cooperation among scientists. In view of the excellence of the recent meeting, however, special tribute must be paid to the chairmen and members of the local committees organized in Chicago to provide funds and equipment and to assist in handling entertainment, registration, and publicity. Paul Jenkins, executive secretary of the Chicago Technical Societies Council, served as general chairman and coordinated the activities of the various committees. R. T. Van Niman, Motiograph Corporation, directed the procurement of equipment for over 275 sessions. A resident of Chicago, he made his headquarters in the Sherman Hotel, where he was available 24 hours a day throughout the meeting period. Distributing equipment—projectors, microscopes, chemical apparatus, etc.—and scheduling operators were among the most important of his many duties. Hans Hoeppner, director of the Information Bureau, The University of Chicago, directed registration from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. daily at the Stevens Hotel. His duties included the organization of the registration facilities and scheduling of paid and volunteer assistants to distribute programs, badges, tickets to special functions, and literature relating to the Chicago area.