

# News and Notes

## Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Genetics Society of America

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The Genetics Society of America celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the rediscovery of Mendel's law at the nineteenth annual meeting, held September 11-14 at The Ohio State University in Columbus. In 1900, three separate investigators, De Vries in Holland, Correns in Germany, and Tschermak in Austria, announced their discovery of Mendel's earlier work. With these three independent investigations the modern science of genetics began.

The meeting was held under the sponsorship of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. C. J. Hylander, Executive Secretary of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and his staff, in cooperation with the local committee, on which D. C. Rife was the Genetics Society representative, made arrangements for the general meeting, and R. G. Jap worked with Dr. Rife in making preparations for the activities of the society. The program covered four days, with all short papers and demonstrations concentrated into the first day. Seventy-two short papers and 10 demonstrations were given in three concurrent sessions, so that all authors who were present had a brief opportunity to present the results of their individual research. A luncheon in Baker Hall, attended by a record-breaking crowd of 313, was followed by the society's business meeting, at which President Curt Stern presided. The newly elected officers are M. R. Irwin, president, J. W. Gowen, vice president, and Ernst Caspari, treasurer.

The Golden Jubilee Celebration began Monday night with a meeting jointly sponsored by the Genetics Society and the AIBS. Frank P. Cullinan, chairman of AIBS, presided. R. E. Cleland responded to the address of welcome by H. L. Bevis, president of the Ohio State University, and Curt Stern expressed the thanks of the society to the Golden Jubilee Committee that planned the celebration. The committee consisted of L. C. Dunn and M. R. Irwin, co-chairmen, and C. L. Huskins, I. M. Lerner, and P. C. Mangelsdorf. Dr. Stern then introduced the speaker of the evening, Richard Goldschmidt, professor emeritus of the University of California. Dr. Goldschmidt spoke on "The Impact of Genetics on Science," relating how genetics in its short life span of 50 years had had a remarkable effect on almost every branch of science, especially the biological sciences. The essence of his remarks is well summed up in an article, "Fifty Years of Genetics," published in the September-October issue of the *American Naturalist*, which was originally prepared to be read at the opening of the Golden Jubilee meeting. When Dr. Goldschmidt learned that he was to address the members of all the biological societies meeting at Columbia, he substituted a more general paper.

The unusually high plane on which the meeting was

initiated by Dr. Goldschmidt continued throughout the rest of the three-day invitation program. In a brief report it is not possible to comment on all the talks given or to touch all the high lights of the program. One of the most interesting papers was that by W. E. Castle, "The Coming of Mendelism." Dr. Castle was one of the few who not only witnessed the coming of Mendelism but at a very early stage took an active part in genetic research, which he has continued to the present time, several years after his retirement from Harvard University. Another significant paper, entitled "The Heritage of Mendel," was prepared by Hugo Iltis who, unfortunately, was unable to attend. His paper was read by G. H. Shull, a long-time friend, and one of the first from this country to visit Brunn after the rediscovery of Mendel's work. In a ceremony entitled "The New World Honors Mendel," Manuel Elgueta, director of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, at Turrialba, Costa Rica, presented a scroll, appropriately engrossed, to the Genetics Society of America. This scroll will be placed in the Mendel Museum established by Dr. Iltis at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. A part of the museum collection, on loan to the Ohio State University, was on exhibition at the time of the meeting.

The main theme of the Golden Jubilee Program was the progress genetics has made in its first fifty years. Five eminent European geneticists, T. Caspersson, Boris Ephrussi, C. D. Darlington, Arne Muntzing, and Julian Huxley, were speakers, contributing markedly to the success of the meeting. All the papers given on the invitation programs will be published early in 1951 by the Macmillan Company as a book, the scope and organization of which are revealed in the following summary:

### HISTORICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF GENETICS

The Status of Heredity before 1900—Conway Zirkle, University of Pennsylvania

The Coming of Mendelism—W. E. Castle, University of California

The Development of the Gene Theory—H. J. Muller, Indiana University

The Relation of Genes and Chromosomes—A. H. Sturtevant, California Institute of Technology

Mutation after Fifty Years—L. J. Stadler, University of Missouri

The Heritage of Mendel—Hugo Iltis, Mary Washington College

Old and New Pathways in Human Genetics—L. H. Snyder, University of Oklahoma

### THE PHYSICAL BASIS OF THE GENE

The Chemistry of Chromosomes and Nuclei—A. E. Mirsky, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

Cytochemical Measurements in the Study of the Gene—T. Caspersson and Jack Schultz, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm

Genetics and Immunology—M. R. Irwin, University of Wisconsin

#### THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE GENE

Chemical Genetics—G. W. Beadle, California Institute of Technology

Remarks on Cell Heredity—Boris Ephrussi, University of Paris

Genetic Studies in Bacteria—Joshua Lederberg, University of Wisconsin

The Role of the Genes in Cytoplasmic Inheritance—T. M. Sonneborn, Indiana University

Evolutionary Changes in Mendelian Populations—Th. Dobzhansky, Columbia University

#### CYTOGENETICS

Evolution of Cytogenetic Mechanisms in Animals—M. J. D. White, University of Texas

Genetics and the Chromosomes—C. D. Darlington, John Innes Horticultural Institute

#### GENETICS, MEDICINE, AND MAN

Genetics and Disease Resistance—J. W. Gowen, Iowa State College

Genetics and the Cancer Problem—C. C. Little, Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory

#### GENETICS AND THE FOOD PROBLEM

Genetics and Plant Breeding—Arne Muntzing, University of Lund

Hybrid Corn: Its Genetic Basis and its Significance in Human Affairs—P. C. Mangelsdorf, Harvard University

Genetics and Plant Pathology—J. C. Walker, University of Wisconsin

Genetics and Animal Breeding—J. L. Lush, Iowa State College

Genetics and Modern Thought—Julian Huxley, formerly Secretary-General UNESCO

The Golden Jubilee, the largest meeting ever held by the Genetics Society, was one of the most enjoyable, partly in consequence of the excellent physical facilities assigned to the society by AIBS and the local committee. Except for the first evening gathering, all lectures were held in the new auditorium of the State Archaeological Museum, with a seating capacity of 600, which was expanded to about 900 by making use of the wide foyers. The Genetics Society is happy that this particular auditorium was allocated to us on this important occasion, and thanks are due the Ohio State Archaeological Museum, the staff of AIBS, and the local committee for their careful planning. In cooperation with the Public Affairs Committee, the society has issued a pamphlet (No. 165) entitled *Genetics—The Science of Heredity*. Written by John Pfeiffer and illustrated by Ralph Graeter, this 32-page article lays the subject of genetics understandingly before the public and is a fitting summation and consummation of a Golden Jubilee.

## Botanical Society Meeting

Harriet Creighton

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At its 45th annual meeting, held at Ohio State University September 11–13, The Botanical Society of America,

Inc., joined with the Genetics Society of America in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the rediscovery of Mendel's research. About 220 research papers were presented before more than 400 members attending this first fall meeting.

Katherine Esau, associate professor of botany and associate botanist of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, was elected president for 1951, and the incoming vice president is W. H. Camp, curator of experimental botany, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. The society also elected the following scientists to corresponding membership: F. Børgesen and P. Boysen Jensen, Copenhagen; F. E. Fritch, London; Ernst Gäumann, Zurich; Brother Leon, C. S. C., Havana; Carl Skottsberg, Stockholm; and Otto Warburg, Berlin.

It was decided to ask the American Institute of Biological Sciences to arrange for the 1951 meeting at the University of Minnesota and for the 1952 and '53 meetings on other university campuses.

## Autumn Meeting of the American Physiological Society

Fred A. Hitchcock

Department of Physiology,  
The Ohio State University, Columbus

The third autumn meeting of the American Physiological Society was held on the campus of Ohio State University at Columbus, September 14–16. There were 462 registrants at the meeting, and about 300 of these were housed in dormitories on the campus. Two hundred and forty scientific communications were presented at scientific sessions held all day Thursday and Friday and Saturday mornings. Five or six sectional meetings were held simultaneously. Demonstrations and movies were held Friday afternoon, followed by a business meeting at 4:30.

Informal entertainment for those attending the meeting was held on the campus Thursday evening. This consisted of a musical program presented by the Independent Players of Columbus and was followed by a social hour. Friday evening the annual banquet of the society was held in the ballroom of the Neil House. More than 275 persons attended. Following the banquet the address of the retiring president was delivered by Carl Wiggers, of Western Reserve University. On the Wednesday before the meeting there was a field trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. About 40 persons went on this trip, which included a tour of the entire field.

At a meeting of the council of the society which preceded the scientific sessions, the succession of D. B. Dill, scientific director of the Army Chemical Center and president-elect of the society, to the presidency was confirmed. In this way the vacancy created by the death of the society's president, H. C. Bazett, was filled. This is the first time in the history of the American Physiological Society that the president has died in office.

## Scientists in the News

The American Chemical Society has chosen **Edgar C. Britton** its president-elect. He is director of the organic research laboratory of the Dow Chemical Company and a leader in the development of insecticides, weed killers, and pharmaceuticals. **N. Howell Furman**, Russell Wellman Moore professor of chemistry at Princeton University, will be president for 1951, the society's diamond jubilee year. **Arthur C. Cope**, chairman of the Chemistry Department, MIT, and **W. Conard Fernelius**, head of the Chemistry Department, Pennsylvania State College, have been elected directors.

**George B. Cressey**, president of the International Geographical Union, left recently for Hong Kong. En route he plans to visit a number of the National Committees of the Union in Europe and southern Asia. He will remain in Hong Kong for several months in connection with a Social Science Research Council travel grant.

**Z. P. Metcalf**, former head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, a division of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, has retired. He will remain at the college in his old quarters. Here, with assistants and a library, the greatest collection of reprints on Homoptera known, and about 100,000 specimens of the order, he will continue his studies in the taxonomy and the cataloging of Homoptera.

Formerly a research assistant in the Physics Department of the University of Texas, **John M. Walsh** has recently joined the staff of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. He will work in the laboratory's GMX Division.

**Lewis G. Weeks**, research geologist of the Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), New York City, gave a series of 34 talks to geological societies and universities on a recent country-wide tour arranged by the Distinguished Lecture Committee of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. His main subject

was "Sedimentary Basin Development and its Bearing on Oil Occurrence." In his talk the speaker examined those broad features of the earth's crustal framework which basically determine the genesis, history, and resulting type of basin. Against this background he described and illustrated the evolution of the types of basins, and the basic conditions of architecture, sedimentation, and environment within the deposition basin, that control the incidence of oil occurrence. The following groups were addressed by Mr. Weeks:

Pittsburgh Geological Society; Indiana-Kentucky Geological Society; Mississippi Geological Society; New Orleans Geological Society; Shreveport Geological Society; South Louisiana Geological Society; Houston Geological Society; Corpus Christi Geological Society; South Texas Geological Society; Dallas Geological Society; Fort Worth Geological Society; Abilene Geological Society; West Texas Geological Society; Panhandle Geological Society; North Texas Geological Society; Oklahoma University, Geology Department; Oklahoma City Geological Society; Kansas Geological Society; University of Kansas; Tulsa Geological Society; Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, A.A.P.G. Pacific Section; San Joaquin Valley Geological Society; Intermountain Association of Petroleum Geologists; Wyoming Geological Association; State University of Iowa; Illinois Geological Survey and University of Illinois; University of Wisconsin; Michigan Geological Survey and University of Michigan; University of Toronto; and the A.A.P.G. Eastern Section.

## Grants and Awards

A board consisting of the president of eight engineering societies in the United Kingdom has awarded the **Kelvin Medal** to Theodore von Karman. Dr. Karman is chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the U. S. Air Force and an honorary professor of mechanical engineering at Columbia.

Three grants totaling \$61,077 have been awarded to the **New York University-Bellevue Medical Center** by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. One for \$25,275 will make possible continuation of the search for a chemical agent that may alter or interfere with infection, an \$18,900 grant will provide for con-

centration on the development of a rapid diagnostic method, and one for \$16,902 will make possible the continuation of a reference center for information on aids and appliances or rehabilitation.

**AAAS Research Grants** have been awarded by: the British Columbia Academy of Science to G. A. Setterfield, University of British Columbia; the Indiana Academy of Science to Winona Welch, DePauw University; the Louisiana Academy of Sciences to C. A. Hickey, Centenary College; the Oregon Academy of Science to J. Arnold Shotwell, University of Oregon, and Vincent D. Roth, Oregon State College; the Pennsylvania Academy of Science to Donald Shay, University of Maryland; and by the Tennessee Academy of Science to Wilson M. Whaley, University of Tennessee, and to H. B. Crouch and Joseph Rucker, Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College.

## Fellowships

The **Lalor Foundation** has discontinued its one-year postdoctoral fellowships, but is continuing, on an expanded basis, its awards for summer fellowships at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, for advanced research in physiological chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics. The foundation is also underwriting a series of predoctoral fellowships in the natural sciences, with emphasis on biochemical and biophysical aspects, at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the Universities of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Inquiries concerning the fellowships at the Marine Biological Laboratory should be sent to Philip B. Armstrong, Director. Information about fellowships at the other institutions may be obtained from the chairman of the department concerned.

Lehigh University has established the **J. D. Berg Scholarship Fund**, with an annual award of \$1000 to an engineering undergraduate. The fund was a gift of Mrs. John D. Berg, in memory of her late husband, who was chairman of the Dravo Corporation and corporate trustee of the university. The scholarship will be in force for the period

of the student's undergraduate residence at Lehigh, and preference will be given to students residing in western Pennsylvania who enroll in an engineering curriculum.

**The Institute of Gas Technology** is offering 15 fellowships leading to both master's and doctor's degrees in gas technology. The fellowships provide an award of \$1,250 and tuition for the first two years. The fellows are employed during the summer by a sponsoring company. Applications may be made by seniors and graduates in chemistry, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, petroleum engineering, and related fields. All applications and requests for information should be addressed to The Director, Institute of Gas Technology, Chicago 16.

**The Sinclair Refining Company** is establishing four new fellowships that will provide \$2,500 a year, and will be awarded to outstanding graduate students. Fellowships in the field of organic chemistry at the University of Chicago will be under the supervision of F. H. Westheimer, and at the University of Illinois under N. J. Leonard. A Sinclair fellowship in petroleum geology will be supervised by F. M. Van Tuyl, of the Colorado School of Mines, and Alfred Chatenever, of the University of Oklahoma, will direct research in the field of petroleum production engineering.

**The Pediatric Cardiology Department** of the Children's Division of Cook County Hospital, Chicago, is accepting applications for fellowships for immediate appointment. The department offers material on both congenital and acquired diseases of the heart and a complete department of angiocardiology and catheterization. Information may be obtained from Dr. Rowine H. Brown, Assistant Medical Superintendent, Children's Division, Cook County Hospital, 700 S. Wood St., Chicago.

Outstanding work in methodology research in the public health field will receive annual recognition, beginning next year, in the form of a \$500 award and a plaque. The prize, to be known as the **Kimble Glass Methodology Research Award**, is to be

given by the Conference of State and Provincial Public Health Laboratory Directors and is endowed by Kimble Glass, a division of Owens-Illinois Glass Company.

## Deaths

**James Llewellyn Crenshaw**, professor of physical chemistry and head of the department at Bryn Mawr College, died November 22, at Salisbury, N. C. He was 63. Dr. Crenshaw had been associated with Bryn Mawr since 1915.

**Dorothy A. Hahn**, professor emerita of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College, died December 10 at 74 after a long illness. Miss Hahn taught at Pennsylvania College for Women for seven years before joining the Mount Holyoke faculty in 1906. She retired in June 1941, after having been a member of the department for 33 years. She did research on derivatives of hydantoins, usually in collaboration with her students. She was the author of a *Dictionary of Chemical Solubilities* (with A. M. Comey), and translated and enlarged the fourth edition of *Theories of Organic Chemistry*, by F. Henrich, published with T. B. Johnson.

**George J. Heuer**, professor emeritus of surgery at Cornell University Medical College and former chief surgeon of New York Hospital, died recently of a heart ailment at 68.

The head of the Psychology Department at Pratt Institute, **Miriam C. Pritchard**, died recently at 44. Dr. Pritchard, who had been associated with the late Leta S. Hollingworth in research studies on the problems of gifted children, wrote several books and articles on the subject. She was on the faculty of the School of Oral and Dental Surgery of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

**Leland Bradley Snoddy**, professor of physics, University of Virginia, died November 12 at 52. He had been a member of the faculty since 1933.

**James Harvey Spencer**, a retired U. S. Weather Bureau meteorologist, died December 13 at 80. A co-founder of Rotary International,

Mr. Spencer was known as the poet laureate of that organization. He had written several books of poetry and prose.

## Publications Received

**Agricultural Periodicals of the British Isles, 1681-1900, and their Location.** F. A. Buttress. University of Cambridge School of Agriculture, Cambridge, England. 2s.

**Currents in Nutrition.** Bertha Burke et al. Nutrition Monograph Series, No. 1. National Vitamin Foundation, Inc., 150 Broadway, New York City.

**Oriental Botany.** Catalog No. J-1 of Books, Serials and Periodicals. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vt.

**Research and its Organization.** Ellice McDonald. Biochemical Research Foundation, Newark, Del.

**Field Trials II: The Analysis of Covariance.** Commonwealth Bureau of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Tech. Comm. No. 15. School of Agriculture, Cambridge, England. 3s. 6d.

**Pacific Science Board: Third Annual Report, 1949.** National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

**Conservation in the Americas.** Annette L. Flugger, Ed. Pan American Union, Washington, D. C.

**Measurement of Low Temperatures.** Physics Department, Westinghouse Research Laboratories, E. Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Stone Age Cultures of Northern Rhodesia.** J. Desmond Clark. South African Archaeological Society, Box 31, Claremont, Cape, South Africa. 21 s.

**Vertebrate Faunas of the Lower Old Red Sandstone of the Welsh Borders and Petraspis Leathensis White: A Dittonian Zone-fossil.** Errol Ivor White. Vol. 1, No. 3. Bull. British Museum (Natural History), London. 7s. 6d.

**Science and Foreign Relations.** Publ. 3860, Department of State. Division of Publications, Office of Public Affairs, Washington 25, D. C.

**Liquid Metals Handbook.** AEC, ONR, and Navy Bur. Ships. U. S. GPO, Washington 25, D. C. \$1.25.