

News and Notes

1950 Meeting of Geological Society of America

David M. Delo

American Geological Institute, Washington, D. C.

THE 63rd annual meeting of the Geological Society of America was held in the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., November 16-18. Meeting with the G.S.A. were the Paleontological Society, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and the Mineralogical Society of America. Host organizations were the Geological Society of Washington, the Paleontological Society of Washington, the Petrologist Club, and the Pick and Hammer Club. A total of 1,974 registrants was in attendance.

The meeting was preceded by two days of field trips, which took several hundred visiting geologists to Bear Island, the Chesapeake Bay area, and the Harpers Ferry district. These trips were led by staff members of the U. S. Geological Survey and The Johns Hopkins University. The afternoon of November 17 was devoted to excursions to laboratories and scientific research institutions in the Washington area. A lighter note was contributed by the annual extravaganza of the Pick and Hammer Club, entitled the "Last Days of Pompey," or "Jason's Golden Fleecing," which played in Lisner Auditorium on November 17 and 18 to capacity houses.

On the more serious side, three medals for distinguished research in geological science were awarded to one Canadian and two U. S. scientists. The Penrose Medal of the Geological Society was presented to Morley Evans Wilson, of the Geological Survey of Canada, for his basic and extensive contributions to deciphering the geology of the Canadian Shield. The Day Medal of the Geological Society was presented to Francis Birch, of Harvard University, for his geophysical research into the properties of materials at high pressures and high temperatures. The Roebling Medal of the Mineralogical Society was presented to Norman L. Bowen, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, for his quantitative experimental physicochemical work on the origin of igneous rocks.

One hundred forty-two papers were given at the technical sessions, in addition to a number of special forums and symposia. The address of the retiring president of the Geological Society, W. W. Rubey,

U. S. Geological Survey, entitled "The Geologic History of Sea Water," was given on Thursday evening at the annual smoker, and created widespread interest. An open forum on problems in engineering geology and a symposium on the geology of coal also attracted attention among geologists devoted to the applications of the science to industrial problems.

A special session on Friday morning was composed of three papers in areas relating to geology; these were given by outstanding authorities in collateral scientific fields. Ernst Mayr, of the American Museum, spoke on the "Bearing of some Biological Data on Geology;" Harold C. Urey, of the Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, offered "Evidence for a Primitive Homogeneous Earth;" and Percy W. Bridgman, of Harvard, outlined "Some Implications for Geophysics of High-Pressure Phenomena."

Chester Stock, of the California Institute of Technology, was elected president of the society for the coming year but died suddenly on December 6, 18 days after taking office. First Vice President T. S. Lovering will function as acting president until the Council chooses a successor to Dr. Stock. Officers of the society for the coming year are:

Past President: William W. Rubey
First Vice President: Thomas S. Lovering
Second Vice President: Marland P. Billings
Third Vice President: Charles E. Weaver
Fourth Vice President: George Tunell
Secretary: Henry R. Aldrich
Treasurer: J. Edward Hoffmeister

Councilors, 1949-51:
John W. Ambrose
S. W. Muller
Thomas B. Nolan

Councilors, 1950-52:
E. F. Davis
J. Hoover Mackin
Richard J. Russell

Councilors, 1951-53:
Ronald K. DeFord
Theodore A. Link
Ward C. Smith

The 1951 meeting of the Geological Society and associated societies will be held in Detroit, Michigan.

Scientists in the News

Bausch & Lomb Scientific Bureau's new director is **Howard S. Coleman**, former head of the Optical Research Laboratories, University of Texas. The directorship has been unfilled since the death of **Wilbur B. Rayton** in 1946. During World War II, Dr. Cole-

man spent several weeks at Bausch & Lomb on an assignment from Frankford Arsenal concerning inspection and performance of optical gunfire control instruments.

The National Jewish Hospital, Denver, announces the forthcoming retirement of **Harry J. Corper**, who

for the past 30 years has been director of research. During this period, the Research Department published many original investigations in the field of tuberculosis and received numerous scientific awards. In recognition of the position that has been attained the board of directors proposes to increase the budget and enlarge the facilities devoted to research. Plans also are being developed for recognition of Dr. Corper's services.

The associate director of the National Bureau of Standards, **Eugene C. Crittenden**, has retired after 41 years with the bureau. He has been a pioneer in the measurement of light and in the establishment of absolute standards for electrical units.

The National Bureau of Standards received the following visitors from abroad recently: **Marc de Hemptinne**, professor of physics, University of Louvain; **Jose M. M. J. Fripiat**, lecturer on physical chemistry of soils at Louvain and assistant at the Institut National pour l'Etude Agronomique du Congo Belge; and **Herbert L. Sichel**, statistics research officer, National Institute for Personnel Research, South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Johannesburg.

Ralph A. Galbraith, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Syracuse University, has been appointed dean of the L. C. Smith College of Applied Science. Dr. Galbraith succeeds **Louis Mitchell**, who has retired.

The newly elected chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of Organic Chemistry for 1951 is **William S. Johnson**, of the University of Wisconsin. He succeeds **R. W. Bost**, University of North Carolina. **Robert C. Elderfield**, Columbia University, was named chairman-elect, and **Nelson J. Leonard**, of the University of Illinois, was reelected secretary-treasurer.

Meetings

The **Indian Science Congress** and the **Pan Indian Ocean Science Congress** held concurrent meetings in Bangalore January 2-10. Approximately 2,000 delegates from the U. S., Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and Oceania attended the sessions.

The **Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science** held its third Pakistan Science Conference at Dacca January 10-14. "Food and Nutrition in Relation to Environmental and National Health," "Energy in Service of Man," and "Development of Sea and Fresh-Water Fisheries in Pakistan" were subjects of the general symposium.

The **American Physical Society** held its 302nd meeting December 28-30 at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prospective meetings of the society are scheduled to be held at Columbia University,

February 1-3; at Pittsburgh, March 8-10; and at Washington, April 26-28.

The **Association of Geology Teachers** organized a new Eastern Division in Washington, D. C., on November 18. This is the first of the regional divisions to be created under the expansion program of the association adopted at the annual meeting last April. Officers of the new division are: president, **Ralph Digman**, Harpur College; vice president, **C. E. Prouty**, University of Pittsburgh; and secretary-treasurer, **Milton T. Heald**, University of West Virginia. The parent association was founded in 1938 by teachers of geology in Middle Western institutions and now includes representatives of more than 50 departments in that general area. Membership of the Eastern Division is drawn primarily from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Virginia, and West Virginia, but is not restricted to this region. The objectives and activities of the association are concerned primarily with the accumulation and distribution of information relative to geological curricula, to aid in the dissemination of geological knowledge to the public, and to provide a clearing-house for discussion of problems of geologic teaching in the interest of increasing its effectiveness. Teachers of geology who are interested in securing further information should write to **Milton T. Heald**, Department of Geology, University of West Virginia, Morgantown.

The 36th annual meeting of the **National Council of Geography Teachers** was held November 24-25 in Chicago. Members from 32 states and Canada attended. More than 79 colleges and universities in 27 states were represented. At the general sessions a variety of papers covered topics on both content and teaching problems. The official U. S. delegation reported on the Unesco International Seminar on the Teaching of Geography as an Aid to International Understanding held in Montreal last summer. The afternoon sectional meetings centered on three themes: geographic education, high-school and college geography, and mathematical geography. The last-mentioned and a section on conservation were planned jointly with the **Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers**, who were in session at the same time. The 1951 meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Grants and Awards

Two **March of Dimes** grants, totaling approximately \$47,000, have been made to University of Chicago scientists for research on infantile paralysis. One of the grants will be used in a search for a simple diagnostic test for polio, under the direction of **Robert Rustigan**, assistant professor of bacteriology; \$23,440 has been allocated for his work on a complement fixation-type test. The other grant—\$23,650—is to con-

tinue previous allocations to Earl A. Evans, Jr., chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, and his associates, who are engaged in research that has the ultimate aim of determining a fundamental basis for a chemical treatment for polio.

The American Ceramic Society has named John C. Hostetter, retired Corning Glass Works scientist, as winner of the **Albert Victor Bleining Award** for 1950. Dr. Hostetter was director of research and development at the Corning Glass Works at the time the 200-inch mirror was cast for the Mt. Palomar telescope.

The treatment of extensive third degree burns will be investigated with the aid of a **PHS grant** under the direction of Vinton E. Siler, of the Department of Surgery, University of Cincinnati. Special target of the investigation will be an improved method for removing "slough," or dead tissue, from burned skin areas. Dr. Siler will investigate the removal of damaged tissue by the application of organic compounds such as enzymes. The grant was one of 110 made to 68 institutions and totaling \$826,876. The fields of biochemistry, nutrition, metabolism, and genetics are covered by the grants.

The **American Farm Bureau Federation's gold medal award** for distinguished service to agriculture was presented during the 32nd annual meeting of the federation. The recipients were Donald F. Jones, chief geneticist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the late Ransom E. Aldrich, who was president of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation for 12 years, and Herbert J. King, who has fostered farm education in Wyoming.

Fellowships

First awards to be made from the **Chapman Memorial Fund** will be allotted this year. Applications for fellowships should be addressed to Chapman Memorial Fund, Department of Birds, American Museum of Natural History, New York 24. Applicants should state their training and experience and describe the nature and scope of the proposed project, as well as the plan of procedure, previous work on the project, and the amount of financial aid required. The names of one or more sponsors should be included. Any phase of ornithological research will be considered, and approximately \$2,000 will be available for the first grants. Any necessary collections made during the tenure of a Chapman fellowship will be deposited in the American Museum. Applications must be received before *June 1*.

The **Department of Biochemistry, University of Washington**, has announced the availability of several graduate teaching and research fellowships. Candidates with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in chemistry, who wish to receive training for the Ph.D. degree in biochemistry, should submit their applications before *March 1* to the Executive Officer, Department of Biochemistry, Division of Health Sciences, Seattle.

Ten fellowships supported by the **Graduate College of the University of Illinois** will be awarded to qualified scholars who contemplate academic careers in the medical and allied sciences. Stipends of \$1,800-\$2,400 are available for medical and dental graduates, with a maximum of \$3,000 for unusually well-qualified applicants. Pharmacy graduates receive a \$1,200 stipend for the calendar year, and exemption from tuition fees is provided for all appointees. Registration for work toward M.S. or Ph.D. degrees is required. Applicants need not have completed clinical internships. Minimum requirements are: Bachelor's and M.D. degree; Bachelor's and D.D.S. degree; Bachelor's in Pharmacy and M.S. degree. The fellowships provide an opportunity for research experience in the basic sciences and the application of these sciences to clinical investigation. Applications must be received by *February 15*, with selections to be announced by *April 1*. Forms may be obtained from the Associate Dean, Graduate College, University of Illinois, 808 S. Wood St., Chicago 12, Ill.

Colleges and Universities

A new treatment for tuberculous empyema has been developed by the Department of Research Surgery of **Ohio State University College of Medicine**. It utilizes the digestive action of crystalline trypsin, supplied by Armour Laboratories under the brand name Tryptar. The solution is used to wash out the chest daily for 7-10 days. The enzyme liquefies the pus and debris, which can then be aspirated.

The **University of Michigan**, in conjunction with General Motors Corporation, has announced the establishment of a \$1,500,000 research project to promote better health for its 446,000 employees, as well as other industrial workers. The Institute of Industrial Health at Ann Arbor will have as its objective research, education, and service in industrial medicine, health, and safety.

Duke University has just received a grant of \$105,000 from the Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company which will support a three-year program of investigations involving research on basic chemical and plant science problems of potential interest to the tobacco industry. Members of the Duke Departments of Chemistry and Botany will supervise the project.

NRC News

The Chemical-Biological Coordination Center of the National Research Council has announced the publication of the third volume in its series of reviews concerned with chemical structure-biological activity relationships. CBCC Review No. 3, *Histamine Antagonists* (122 pp., \$1.50), by Frederick Leonard and Charles P. Hutterer, discusses the pharmacological properties, methods of *in vitro* and

in vivo evaluation, methods of synthesis, structure-activity relationships, mechanism of action, and clinical application of histamine antagonists. More than 1,000 compounds, tested for potential antihistaminic activity, are listed in 48 classified tables, including structures, activities, and literature references. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of structure-activity correlations within the different classes of compounds, and on generalizations that can be deduced. The review contains 224 references. Copies may be obtained from the Publications Office, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

The closing date for filing applications for **Fellowships in Tuberculosis** has been extended to *February 1*. These awards, administered by NRC for the National Tuberculosis Association, are designed to promote the training and development of investigators in this field. They are open to citizens of the U. S. who are graduates of American schools and who, as a rule, are not more than thirty years of age. Preference will be given to applicants who have the M.D. or Ph.D. degree. Only in exceptional circumstances will a fellowship be awarded to an applicant without either of these degrees. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Medical Fellowship Board, NRC, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C.

The ninth edition of the directory ***Industrial Research Laboratories of the United States*** (445 pp., \$5.) is now available from the National Research Council. The book contains information on the research laboratories of 2,845 industrial and commercial organizations, including the names of the president and research executives, the location of the laboratories, the numbers and kinds of research scientists and other personnel of the laboratories, the fields of research activity, whether any consulting services are offered, and the size of the laboratory library. The directory contains 2 appendices, one giving the same information for government laboratories which cooperate with industry, and the other listings of universities and colleges that offer research services to industry, including the kinds of facilities available. The book also contains a geographical index and a complete subject index of research activities. It may be ordered from the Publications Office, NRC, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D. C. Checks should be made payable to the National Academy of Sciences.

Deaths

The president of the American Cyanamid Company, **William Brown Bell**, died of a heart attack December 20 at Marrakech, French Morocco. He was on a trip surveying the company's interests abroad. Mr. Bell was responsible for the integration of the numerous companies that merged to form the American Cyanamid Company.

Jacob L. Snoek, head of the Physics Department of Horizons Incorporated, and formerly with the Philips Incandescent Lamp Works, Eindhoven, Holland, was killed in an automobile accident December 3 near Elkhart, Ind. Author of the book *New Developments in Ferromagnetic Materials*, Dr. Snoek was considered a world authority in the general field of magnetism.

Abraham Wald and his wife were killed in an airplane crash in southern India recently. Dr. Wald, who was professor of mathematical statistics at Columbia University, had gone to India to lecture at the Indian Statistical Institute of Presidency College in Calcutta.

Helen Corbin Monchow, land economist and former professor at Northwestern University, died recently at the age of 52. A former managing editor of *The Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics*, she was with the Housing and Home Finance Agency at the time of her death.

The developer of the tracer bullet, **William H. Buell**, died recently at 73. He was vice president and general manager of the Polychem Corporation at the time of his death.

Esther Rosencrantz, retired associate professor of medicine at the University of California's Medical School and a tuberculosis specialist, died December 18 at 74. She had recently given her collection of the work of Sir William Osler to the University of California.

The **National Society for Crippled Children and Adults and the Alpha Gamma Delta International Women's Fraternity** are sponsoring a four-week training course for employment and placement counselors working with cerebral palsied and other severely handicapped workers March 12–April 6. It will be given at the Institute of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center under the auspices of the School of Education of the university. Training will include case studies and evaluations, clinical study and observation, lectures on medical and psychosocial aspects of the problem, counseling tools and techniques, placement tools and techniques, and vocational training. Counselors will also have an opportunity to visit rehabilitation and treatment centers. The purpose of the training program is to encourage public and private agencies to increase their services for the severely handicapped. Counselors from these agencies, as well as schools and industry, will be selected for fellowships according to their qualifications and contributions they can make in effective counseling and placement work. Applications must be received by *January 26*. Blanks and further information may be obtained from the National Personnel Registry and Employment Service of the National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 11 S. La Salle St., Chicago 3.