The Research Committee on Biology and Medicine of the International Association of Gerontology. The Committee was established by the Association in 1951, during the 2nd International Gerontological Congress in St. Louis. A little later the whole Research Committee was organized, with subcommittees on Cellular Biology, Endocrinology, Pathology, Nutrition and Metabolism, and Clinical Pathologic Physiology. Since it appears to be the first of its kind in the activity of the medical and scientific associations, it can be considered as an experiment. When put into wider practice, the committee might introduce some improvements into its organization. The participants of the committee already consider it to be a definite success.

All the details of the establishment and activities of the committee are given in the report on the subject to the 2nd International Gerontological Congress (*1*), the Proceedings of the Endocrinological Session of the Congress (*2*), and the Proceedings of the Conference of the European Division of the Committee (*3–5*).

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Lepidurus kirkii

LINDER (*1*) refers to a view that there is a biological difference between the branchiopods, *Apus* and *Lepidurus*; the former occur in pools that dry up, the latter are found in permanent water. He writes of having seen *L. apus* in ponds in Sweden which dry up every year, and he refers to reports by others about both genera.

It is evident that relevant data on *Lepidurus* are rather scanty and the following may be placed on record: On Marley's Hill, near Christchurch, New Zealand, are three ponds nearly equidistant and roughly in line north to south. The southernmost pond dries up annually, the other two have not been known to dry up in the past twenty years. *L. kirkii* appears regularly, annually, in the temporary pond.

In the permanent ponds, rare occurrences of two or three, or some greater small number of *L. kirkii* have been noted sometimes at intervals of several years, and are quite clearly accidental. These latter mature specimens grow to an enormous size, three times that of those in the temporary pond. They probably live a long time. There is no evidence that they have any progeny. Their presence may be caused by the carriage by the wind of occasional eggs from the dry site to the south, or from some other site.

The conclusion is that the eggs of *L. kirkii* must be dried before they will hatch.

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Food Prices in Palo Alto

IN 1944 and 1948 reports on food prices in Palo Alto, California, were published in SCIENCE, **101**, 124 (1944); **108**, 425 (1948). The surveys, upon which these reports are based, were initiated in 1939 and have been made annually in the 3rd week of May. Since it has been observed that these surveys are of more than local interest, the later data are now presented for publication.

Greater Palo Alto (inclusive of Stanford) may still be described as a university town, now having a population of about 42,000 inclusive of 7200 students and 1000 university employees and members of their families resident on the Stanford campus. Of the wage earners resident in this community, approximately 27% are employed in San Francisco or other neighboring towns, about 10% are employed by Stanford University, and about 22% by light industries in this area. The remainder are engaged in the manifold activities characteristic of such communities. There is no heavy industry in the area.

The survey of food prices referred to here has been made among the retail stores in Palo Alto, in all cases during the 3rd or 4th week of May. Year by year the same items were priced. To give a proper weighting to the list, the quantities of various foodstuffs required for a "liberal" diet were used. The cost of such a diet was determined for one week's maintenance of an adult man engaged in moderate physical activity. It is recognized, of course, that many different liberal diets could be devised, though all would be characterized, according to present concepts, by being comparatively low in potatoes and highly processed cereals and comparatively rich in so-called high quality protein foods. The particular diet that we have priced contains an abundance of dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, and high quality proteins. It is not, however, a "luxury" diet. Differences in regional dietary practices or in availability of foodstuffs would permit many variations without serious trespass upon the limiting characteristics of a liberal diet. The particular foods about which these surveys have centered would provide, per day, approximately 3100 Cal, 137 g fat, 318 g carbohydrate, 107 g of protein, 1.36 g calcium, 2.04 g phosphorus, 20 mg iron, 15,000 units of vitamin A or its equivalent, 160 mg ascorbic acid, 370 units of vitamin D, 1.4 mg of thiamin, and 2.7 mg of riboflavin. These values refer to the food as purchased and should be reduced by probably 10% to