Meetings

AAAS Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division

The annual meetings of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division, AAAS, were held on the campus of the New Mexico Highlands University, in Las Vegas, 27 April–1 May 1958.

Programs of the four sections of the division included 54 individual research papers. In addition, two symposia consisting of invited papers were conducted. One of these, sponsored by the division's Committee on Desert and Arid Zone Research, extended through two sessions. The subject, "The Bioecology of Arid Lands," was presented by eight specialists in as many facets of this topic. A great deal of interest was shown in the continuation of a series of symposia on "Improvement of Science Teaching." Both the secondary schools and the colleges of the region were represented by the six panelists on this program.

The division's annual John Wesley Powell memorial lecture was given by Victor Regener, professor of physics at the University of New Mexico. He spoke on "The progress of the International Geophysical Year."

The retiring president of the division, Morris F. Stubbs, professor of chemistry at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, delivered the presidential address on "Some natural resources of New Mexico and their possible effects on the future of the state."

Newly elected officers of the division include: Albert R. Mead, University of Arizona, president; Lora M. Shields, New Mexico Highlands University, vice president; Morris F. Stubbs and Edwin R. Helwig, members of the executive committee. Marlowe G. Anderson will continue as executive secretary-treasurer, and representative to the AAAS Council.

New chairmen of the sections of the division are: W. G. Solheim, University of Wyoming, Botanical Sciences Section; Wesley W. Wendlandt, Texas Technological College, Physical Sciences Section; Joe Ben Wheat, University of Colorado, Social Sciences Section; T. Paul Maslin, University of Colorado, Zoological Sciences Section.

The University of Wyoming, at Laramie, was selected as the site for the 1959 meetings.

MARLOWE G. ANDERSON
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Forthcoming Events

August

4–9. Microbiology, 7th intern. cong., Stockholm, Sweden. (F. C. Harwood, Soc. of American Bacteriologists, c/o Waverly Press, Inc., Mt. Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2, Md.)

7–9. Electron Microscope Soc., annual, Los Angeles, Calif. (C. M. Schwartz, Battelle Memorial Inst., 505 King Ave., Columbus 1. Ohio.)

10–16. Radiation Research, intern. cong., Burlington, Vt. (H. M. Patt, Argonne National Lab., P.O. Box 299, Lemont, Ill.)

11–13. International Mathematical Union, 3rd general assembly, St. Andrews, Scotland. (F. Smithies, Mathematical Inst., 16 Chambers St., Edinburgh 1, Scotland.)

11–16. Occupational Therapists, World Federation's 2nd intern. cong., Copenhagen, Denmark. (Mrs. I. Worsoe, Hvidkloververvej 10, Aarhus, Denmark.)

12–13. Economic Botany Conf., New York, N.Y. (D. J. Rogers, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York 58.)

13–15. Electronic Standards and Measurements Conf., Boulder, Colo. (J. F. Brockman, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder.)

13–15. Industrial Applications of X-ray Analysis, 7th annual conf., Denver, Colo. (W. M. Mueller, Metallurgy Div., Denver Research Inst., University of Denver, Denver 10.)

13–19. Seaweed Symposium, 3rd intern., Galway, Ireland. (C. O. hEocha, Chemistry Department, University College, Galway.)

13–20. Insect Pathology and Biological Control, intern. conf., Prague and Smolenica, Czechoslovakia. (J. Weiser, Inst. of Biology, Nacvicisti 2, Prague XIX, Czechoslovakia.)

13–20. International Astronomical Union, 10th general assembly, Moscow, U.S.S.R. (P. Th. Oosterhoff, IAU, Leiden Observatory, Leiden, Netherlands.)

15–20. World Medical Assoc., 12th general, Copenhagen, Denmark. (World Medical Assoc., 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19.)

17. American College of Hospital Administrators, 24th annual, Chicago, Ill. (ACHA, 620 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11.)

17–21. Health Conf., 7th annual, University Park, Pa. (M. Cashman, Pennsylvania Dept. of Health, P.O. Box 90, Harrisburg.)

18–19. American Astronautical Soc., Western meeting, Palo Alto, Calif. (N. V. Petersen, Lockheed Missile Systems Div., Palo Alto.)

18–21. Conservation Education Assoc., 5th annual, Salt Lake City, Utah. (S. D. Mulaik, Biology Dept., University of Utah, Salt Lake City.)

18–21. Heat Transfer, AIChE conf., Evanston, Ill. (F. J. Van Antwerpen, AIChE, 25 W. 45 St., New York 36.)

18–22. Clinical Chemistry Workshop, Houston, Tex. (Division of Clinical Chemistry, Dept. of Biochemistry, Baylor Univ., College of Medicine, Houston. 25.)

18–22. Occupational Medicine and Toxicology, 2nd Inter-American conf., Miami, Fla. (W. B. Deichmann, Dept. of Pharmacology, Univ. of Miami School of Medicine, Coral Gables, Fla.)

18–22. Plant Science Seminar, 35th annual, Big Rapids, Mich. (E. P. Claus, Div. of Pharmacy, Ferris Inst., Big Rapids.)

18–22. Semiconductors, intern. conf., IUPAP, Rochester, N.Y. (D. L. Dexter,

Dept. of Physics, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester.)

18–23. New England Assoc. of Chemistry Teachers, 20th summer, Kingston, R.I. (J. A. Martus, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester 10, Mass.)

18–25. Religion in the Age of Science, 5th summer conf., Star Island, N.H. (Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, 280 Newton St., Brookline 46, Mass.)

20–23. Photofluorography, intern. cong., Stockholm, Sweden. (International Cong. of Photofluorography, P.O. Box 5097, Stockholm 5.)

20–27. Australian and New Zealand Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, 33rd cong., Adelaide, Australia. (J. R. A. McMillan, Science House, 157–161 Gloucester St., Sydney.)

20–27. Genetics, 10th intern. cong., Montreal, Canada. (J. W. Boyes, Dept. of Genetics, McGill Univ., Montreal.)

21–23. American Farm Economic Assoc., Winnipeg, Canada. (L. S. Hardin, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.)

21–23. Chemical Organization of Cells, Normal and Abnormal, Madison, Wis. (J. F. A. McManus, Dept. of Pathology, Univ. of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham.)

(See issue of 20 June for comprehensive list)

Letters

Behavioral Science

Your editorial on the desirability of "team projects" to produce "a unified theory" in "behavioral science" [*Science* **127**, 933 (1958)] stimulates several comments. Agreement with your conclusion that there are better "ways to spend money in this science" does not prevent disagreement on the reasons leading to it—and other matters.

As the editorial states, studies of social and physical phenomena—by some method—are similar in age. However, the study of human behavior by the methods of science is a recent thing. This "newness" has at least two implications:

1) It is premature to assume that the various studies of man (biological, psychological, social, cultural, and so on) will ever produce a body of knowledge of a size and compactness comparable to that of modern physics. Perhaps they will develop several bodies of knowledge closely related and interpenetrating, as, for example, chemistry, physics, and astronomy. Perhaps psychology, sociology, and anthropology—properly delimited—will prove to be as disparate but complementary as, say, geology, climatology, and paleontology. Is it not too early to state that the sciences of man and other social organisms will, or will not, produce a unified theory?

2) What do these new sciences-in-becoming now have to contribute toward a unified theory? Only psychology, perhaps, is well started on the development of a theory—that is, a system of tested propositions. The others have some generalizations to offer which are well replicated but which, in the main, are disconnected. While an exaggeration, the *mot* of a former colleague comes to mind: "The calculus is not the only place where you can't integrate nothing!"

I conclude that (i) we students of human behavior have every right to work toward a unified theory, alone or in teams, and "perennially" if we choose; (ii) at the moment, the slow, painstaking formulation, testing, and retesting of theoretical propositions is a more profitable use of time and what little money we are allotted.

Must *Science* perpetuate a misnomer like "behavioral science," however popular and widespread its use has become? Why do not those who study the "behavior" of protons, molecules, cells, or even galaxies object to this "steal" as loudly and legitimately as students of social phenomena should object to the reservation of "natural science" for studies of physical phenomena? However, an appropriate name for this division of the scientific enterprise continues to elude us. The "social sciences," the "behavioral sciences," the "sciences of man," the