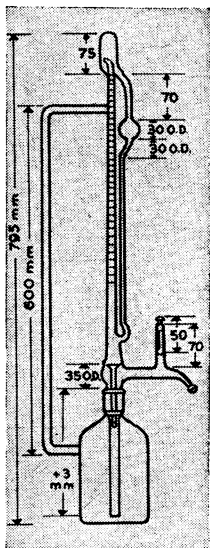
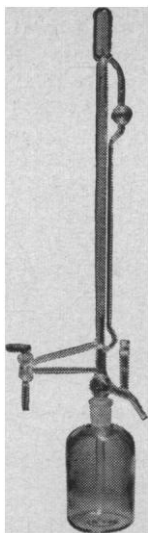


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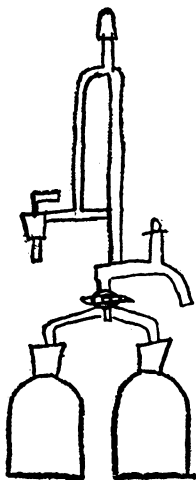


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Meetings

Science in Nigeria

The second annual conference of the Science Association of Nigeria was held in Zaria, Northern Nigeria, 15 to 18 December 1959. This association, affiliated with the wider organization of the West African Science Association, has been in existence only 1 year. Its membership is recruited from all branches of the teaching profession, from government scientists, and from industrial organizations.

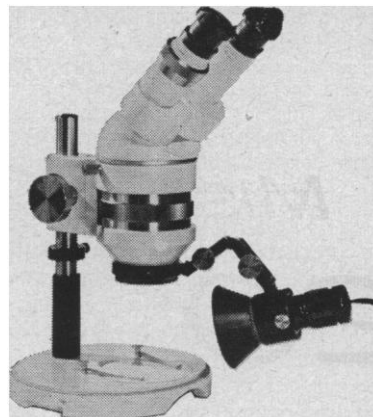
The immense developments in Nigeria since World War II have given rise to a large increase in the numbers of scientific workers, both African and European. Yet the over-all numbers are still grossly inadequate for the country's need in an age of technological expansion. The association was brought into being for the dual purpose of providing a forum for scientists working in the country and of informing the general public of the role which scientific work is playing in their lives. Already the association has achieved considerable success. The quality of the papers and the discussions at the 1959 meeting was extremely high and gave a picture of a general standard of work and achievement which would have been unthinkable not many years ago.

The most obvious immediate technological needs of this country are in agriculture and allied fields. It is not surprising, therefore, that a great deal of emphasis was placed on agricultural developments and on the relation of these developments to nutrition. But other subjects were not neglected. The disturbing question of the biological effects of radiation—a real issue in this country since the first mention of atom-bomb tests in the Sahara—was dealt with in a scholarly and authoritative manner. There were brief incursions into the realms of physiology and even of philosophy.

The importance of the meeting, though, really lay in the fact that it brought together workers from many parts of Nigeria and from many fields of work. Physical and intellectual isolation are an ever-present danger in a vast, underdeveloped territory such as this, and an interchange of ideas and viewpoints is a real necessity.

This meeting underlined a phenomenon of great significance, certainly, in Africa, probably also in other territories—namely, a reorientation in the pattern of research. Before the war the tropics, at best, were field stations visited by scientists from Europe who collected their material for examination in properly equipped laboratories in Europe. Today, Nigeria has not merely

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GRASSLANDS

Editor: Howard B. Sprague 1959

6" x 9", 424 pp., 37 illus., index, cloth.
Price \$9.00, AAAS members' cash orders \$8.00. AAAS Symposium Volume No. 53.

This volume is intended as a review of knowledge on many aspects of grasslands resources. The 44 authors were selected by their own professional colleagues as being particularly competent to present the respective subjects. Thirty-seven papers are arranged under these chapter headings:

1. Sciences in Support of Grassland Research
2. Forage Production in Temperate Humid Regions
3. Engineering Aspects of Grassland Agriculture
4. Forage Utilization and Related Animal Nutrition Problems
5. Evaluation of the Nutritive Significance of Forages
6. Grassland Climatology
7. Ecology of Grasslands
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the laboratories (insufficient in number, perhaps, but still there) but also the scientific personnel to carry out the work. The opportunities here are immense, and the challenge is something which Europe cannot match. There is, after all, a fundamental absurdity (though this was justifiably overlooked at the time they were created) in situating institutions of tropical research in England or indeed anywhere outside the tropics. This change alone is a big development. Most of the original work carried out in this country is, perforce, in applications such as agriculture and medicine. Nevertheless, the third step toward scientific maturity has already been taken, for there is now a great deal of "pure" research going on, particularly at the University College, Ibadan.

Science and technology in Nigeria are still young, but one feels that the plant is viable, that scientific activity will continue to grow, and that the nation as a whole will increasingly come to accept the new technologies as her best guarantee of future prosperity.

These are the impressions gleaned at the conference, at least by one observer. I feel that the Science Association of Nigeria is to be congratulated on the success of its first year of life and, in particular, of its second conference.

BRIAN HOPKINS
University College, Ibadan, Nigeria

Forthcoming Events

June

8-10. Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (Canadian Physiological Soc., Pharmacological Soc. of Canada, Canadian Assoc. of Anatomists, Canadian Biochemical Soc.), 3rd annual, Winnipeg, Manitoba. (E. H. Bensley, Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Ave., Montreal 25, P.Q.)

8-11. National Soc. of Professional Engineers, annual, Boston, Mass. (P. H. Robbins, NSPE, 2029 K St., NW, Washington 6)

8-12. American College of Chest Physicians, Miami Beach, Fla. (M. Kornfeld, 112 E. Chestnut St., Chicago 11, Ill.)

9-10. American Geriatrics Soc., Miami Beach, Fla. (R. J. Kraemer, 2907 Post Rd., Warwick, R.I.)

9-10. Canadian Inst. of Food Technology, 3rd annual conf., Winnipeg, Manitoba. (W. J. Eva, Box 846, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

9-10. Society of Women Engineers, 10th annual conv., Seattle, Wash. (Mrs. J. A. Troxell, 3613 E. 43 St., Seattle 5)

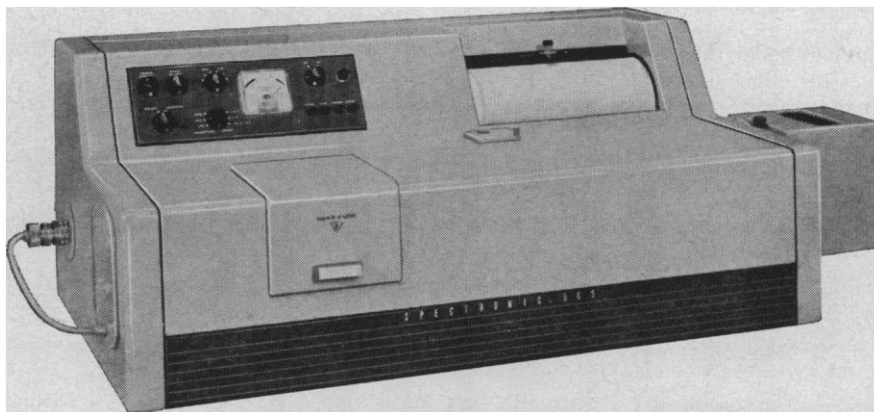
9-11. Acoustical Soc. of America, Providence, R.I. (W. Waterfall, ASA, 335 E. 45 St., New York 17)

9-11. Endocrine Soc., Miami Beach, Fla. (H. H. Turner, 1200 N. Walker, Oklahoma City 3, Okla.)

9-11. National Speleological Soc., annual, Carlsbad, N.M. (G. W. Moore, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, Calif.)

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