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L. A. George II, 1961, *SCIENCE*,
Vol. 133, No. 3462, pp. 1423-24, May 5.

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Meetings

Plant Phenolics

The recent increase of interest in the biology and chemistry of the phenolic constituents of plants becomes immediately apparent on inspection of the table of contents of many of the world's biological and chemical publications. However, workers in the various fields in which there is an interest in the plant phenolics are widely scattered throughout departments of botany, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, microbiology, pharmacy, pharmacology, and forestry, in universities, research institutes, government agencies, and industry. There is consequently almost no common meeting place for people with such interests, with the result that there is little discussion and exchange of information between workers in the different disciplines.

In 1956 the Plant Phenolics Group was founded in England as an informal organization with the aims of promoting "the advancement of the knowledge of phenolic and related constituents of plants in respect of their chemistry, function, biosynthesis, effect on plant and animal physiology and pathology, and the application of such knowledge in agriculture and industry." Since its founding the Plant Phenolics Group has been very successful in achieving these aims, holding two or three meetings per year. The proceedings of many of these meetings have been published.

At the 9th International Botanical Congress in Montreal in 1959, discussions with various biochemists and physiologists interested in plant phenolic substances led to the idea that a sister organization be formed in North America. The largest problem involved in forming such a group on this continent, of course, results from the geographical size of North America, which would prohibit such a group from meeting more often than once a year.

An organizing committee consisting of T. A. Geissman (University of California), V. C. Runeckles (Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada), and G. H. N. Towers (McGill) distributed a letter to interested persons in 1960, the response to which was so enthusiastic as to encourage the committee to make plans for an inaugural meeting. This was held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, from 31 August to 1 September 1961, and took the form of a symposium on the bio-

chemistry of plant phenolic substances. The meeting was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, under the direction of G. Johnson (Colorado State University) and T. A. Geissman.

Papers were presented as follows: "Recent studies on the structures and bitterness of the flavonoid glycosides of citrus" (R. M. Horowitz, U.S. Department of Agriculture); "Biosynthesis of plant phenols" (S. A. Brown, National Research Council, Saskatoon); "Naturally occurring biflavonyls" (N. Kawano, University of Nagasaki); "Metabolic fate of phenolic substances in animals" (A. N. Booth, U.S. Department of Agriculture); "Role of plant phenolics in disease resistance and immunity" (I. Uritani, Nagoya University); "Melanin and its formation" (G. A. Swan, University of Durham); and "Estrogenic-like substances in plants" (E. M. Bickoff, U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Over 60 delegates attended the symposium, the last session of which was devoted to founding the Plant Phenolics Group of North America. The officers elected were as follows: president, S. H. Wender (University of Oklahoma); vice-president, L. Jurd (U.S. Department of Agriculture); and secretary-treasurer, V. C. Runeckles.

It was agreed at the founding meeting that membership be open to all persons interested in the Group's aims, on application to the secretary, Dr. V. C. Runeckles, P.O. Box 6500, Montreal.

V. C. RUNECKLES

*Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada,
Montreal*

Forthcoming Events

January

2-3. California Assoc. of Chemistry Teachers, San Luis Obispo, Calif. (R. Major, 1736 N. Sierra Bonita Ave., Hollywood 46, Calif.)

8-12. International Heat Transfer Conf., Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London, England. (Secretary, IME, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, S.W.1)

8-12. Society of Automotive Engineers, annual, Detroit, Mich. (R. W. Crory, SAE, 485 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N.Y.)

8-13. Central Treaty Organization, Role of Science in Natural Resources, Lahore, Pakistan. (Office of Intern. Conferences, Dept. of State, Washington 25)

9-11. Reliability and Quality Control, 8th natl. symp., Institute of Radio Engineers and American Inst. of Electrical Engineers, Washington, D.C. (Scientific Liaison Office, Natl. Research Council, Sussex Dr., Ottawa, Ont., Canada)