

permitted to pass through California if under official seal.

The *Weekly Bulletin* for February 20, of the State Department of Public Health says: "A brief summary of the psittacosis situation in California during the past few months reveals the appearance of twelve cases and six deaths. These patients had in every instance except one been in contact with recently purchased parakeets, most of which were purchased from itinerant bird venders.

"The laboratory work in connection with these cases was done by Dr. F. K. Meyer at the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research. Positive findings were reported in parakeets from Grass Valley, San Luis Obispo, Woodland and San Francisco. Not all of these parakeets had been associated with cases in human beings. Positive results were obtained also from autopsy specimens from one of the patients who died of psittacosis."

#### GENETICS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

At the recent New Orleans meetings, the genetics sections of the American Society of Zoologists and the Botanical Society of America were reorganized as the Genetics Society of America. The group known as the Geneticists Interested in Agriculture was discontinued with the understanding that symposia of interest to agriculturists will be held by the new society. Dr. R. A. Brink was chosen to cooperate with the society officers in organizing this part of the program.

The executive committee of the society consists of the following officers and past chairmen: L. C. Dunn, *president*; F. D. Richey, *vice-president*; P. W. Whiting, *secretary-treasurer*; L. J. Stadler, *past chairman*; L. J. Cole, *past chairman*. The society now consists of 289 members of whom 153 are also members of the American Society of Zoologists and 90 are members of the Botanical Society of America.

The officers of the society urge members to suggest to any of their acquaintances who are interested in any field of genetics to apply for membership. Names endorsed by two members may be sent to the secretary at any time. Teachers of genetics, advanced graduate students, and research assistants who may be interested in attending the meetings or in receiving copies of abstracts giving the latest results of investigations are welcomed to membership. It is particularly urged that Canadians or others who may be so situated as to be able to attend the meetings will not hesitate to apply for membership.

It is expected that the meetings will be conducted very similarly to those that have been previously held by the genetics sections. The executive committee will, however, welcome suggestions from members in reference to program rules or any other affairs of the

society. All suggestions mailed to the secretary will be circulated among the other members of the Executive Committee for their consideration.

Copies of the constitution and by-laws will be sent upon request. Annual dues are \$1.00. Copies of programs and abstracts of papers to be presented at the annual meeting will be furnished without charge to members in good standing.

P. W. WHITING,  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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#### THE SUMMER SESSION OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

AN experiment in graduate work is to be initiated in the chemistry department of the Johns Hopkins University during the summer session of 1932, in order to provide a unique opportunity for teaching and industrial chemists to confer with authorities of national and international repute on "Recent Developments in Chemistry." The work is planned as a series of conferences covering a period of five weeks, each week to be devoted to a particular phase of chemistry. This special course is in addition to the regular theoretical and laboratory courses in general, physical, organic and analytical chemistry, and arrangements have been made for those on limited leave to register for only one week, if so desired. In addition to the regular registration fee of three dollars, a nominal fee of five dollars per week will be charged. The complete series may be taken as a graduate credit course, without additional charge to students regularly registered in the summer session.

The conferences on "Recent Developments in Chemistry" will be directed by members of the graduate faculty whose work will be supplemented by invited lecturers. The program is as follows:

##### *Program*

*June 27 to July 1:* "Raman Effect and Problems in Molecular Structure," directed by D. H. Andrews. The week will close with a general discussion grouped around papers by the invited lecturers—Harold C. Urey, Oliver R. Wulf, John R. Bates, Henry Eyring and H. M. Smallwood.

*July 5 to 9:* "Colloidal Chemistry," directed by W. A. Patrick. A special lecture will be given on "The Colloidal Behavior of High Polymers," by Elmer O. Kraemer.

*July 11 to 15:* "Catalysis," directed by J. C. W. Frazer.

*July 11 and 12:* J. C. W. Frazer, "Structure of Catalysts; State of Adsorbed Molecules; Mixed Catalysts; and Poisoning of Catalysts."

*July 13:* A. B. F. Duncan, "Absorption of Gases or