

that "the" South and "the" North are no concepts of medical science.

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A CRITICISM OF THE ARTICLE "ENZYMES, VITAMINS AND THE ZONE OF MAXIMUM COLLOIDALITY"

I FEEL obliged to write in protest against the article, "Enzymes, Vitamins and the Zone of Maximum Colloidality,"¹ by Dr. Jerome Alexander, published in SCIENCE last summer. The article discloses a lack of familiarity with enzymes. Alexander speaks of the possibility of decrease of enzyme activity through too great a degree of aggregation and then says: "On the other hand, too great a degree of dispersion of the enzyme might lead to a particulate kinetic activity so intense that the number of *successful* encounters between enzyme and reactants would be reduced to the level of inefficiency." This is an improbable supposition which has no experimental evidence to support it.

Alexander says that his views regarding the neces-

sity for a maximum zone of colloidality for an enzyme are confirmed by an experiment where pepsin coagulates a suspension of denatured egg-white and where the coagulum is dispersed by adding hydrochloric acid. Here it seems to me that there is no connection between hypothesis and experiment.

He states: "Recent work of Professors Richard Kuhn, Otto Warburg and their collaborators indicates that the newly isolated water-soluble lyochromes, the flavines, which apparently constitute vitamin B₂, exhibit enzymic activity when brought into the colloidal state, presumably by fixation on a colloidal carrier." At the time of publication of Alexander's paper an *in vitro* formation of the yellow oxidation enzyme had not been demonstrated. Shortly afterward appeared a paper by Theorell² describing the crystallization of the enzyme, its inactivation through splitting into its pigment and protein components and its partial reformation upon adding the pigment to the protein.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE meeting of the executive committee was held in the office of The Science Press, Grand Central Terminal, New York City, on October 21, 1934, with the following members present: Drs. Cattell, Compton, Conklin, Curtiss, Fox, Livingston, Thorndike, Ward, Wilson and Woods. Dr. Hildebrand was excused for absence.

(1) The minutes of the last meeting, held at Berkeley in June, had been approved by mail.

(2) The financial report of the treasurer was discussed, accepted and ordered audited.

(3) The executive committee expressed its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the treasurer.

(4) The treasurer's budget was approved as adjusted.

(5) The permanent secretary's financial report was discussed, accepted and ordered audited.

(6) The budget of the permanent secretary's office was approved.

(7) The budget for the Pittsburgh exhibition, prepared by the director of exhibits, was approved.

(8) The permanent secretary's office was authorized to sell surplus copies of the 1929-1934 Summarized Proceedings volume to non-members at \$4 per copy in paper cover, and \$5 in cloth binding.

(9) The executive committee voted to express to

the executive assistant its appreciation for the fine work done on the volume of Summarized Proceedings just issued.

(10) The permanent secretary reported on his conference with the local committee for the forthcoming Minneapolis meeting. The dates of June 24 to 29, 1935, were approved as suggested by the local committee. A Maiben lecture was authorized to be given by a prominent worker in medicine, if feasible. Other topics were suggested for general addresses. The permanent secretary announced that the Minnesota Medical Society would meet in connection with the association at Minneapolis, from June 24 to 26.

(11) The dates of the St. Louis meeting were fixed for December 30, 1935, to January 4, 1936.

(12) The quadrennial convocation of 1936 was definitely scheduled for Washington, D. C.

(13) A brief report was presented on meetings to be held at Rochester (June, 1936), Denver (June, 1937) and Indianapolis (December, 1937).

(14) The permanent secretary was authorized to investigate the matter of extending the list of future meeting places to include 1940. The committee favored especially a summer meeting for 1938 in Canada and the following winter meeting in a southeastern city. This item was made a special order for the Pittsburgh meeting.

(15) The executive committee reaffirmed the recommendation of

¹ Jerome Alexander, SCIENCE, 80: 79, 1934.

² Hugo Theorell, *Biochem. Zeit.*, 272: 155, 1934.