

interested and in many cases excited by the newspaper accounts. This is hopeful, because it suggests that even the truth might have interested them had the press seen fit to make it available.

Out of nearly one hundred papers whose stories finally came back to me, about one tenth had reports that were neither seriously wrong scientifically nor obnoxious to me personally. In view of the great need

for popular presentation of the results of research, and in view of the mechanisms set up for this purpose and used in this case, this is a serious matter despite its humorous side. It is fairly typical of what still happens to scientific news, and it has a moral, in fact several of them, that will be obvious to the reader.

G. G. SIMPSON

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America held its fifteenth annual meeting on May 31 and June 1, 1940, at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. The sessions were well attended, and all the prominent seismological observatories of the United States westward to the Mississippi Valley were represented; on account of the international situation, the Canadian seismologists did not attend. The members and guests of the section were welcomed by the Reverend Dennis Burns, S.J., president of Xavier University, and by the Reverend V. C. Stechschulte, S.J., director of the Xavier seismic station.

Professor Arthur C. Ruge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chairman of the section, presided at the four sessions during which the business of the section was transacted and the scientific papers were presented. Detailed reports were given on "Amateur Seismology" by J. J. Lynch, S.J., of Fordham University, and on "Methods and Operations" by E. L. Perry, of Williams College; these reports aroused much interest and discussion; it is hoped that they may be made available in printed form for distribution. The report of E. A. Hodgson, of the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, on "Vault Construction" was read by title because of his enforced absence; however, the detailed report has since been mailed by the observatory to all seismic stations; it constitutes the most authoritative and up-to-date source of information that we have on the subject.

Twenty-two papers were presented on a variety of topics in theoretical and instrumental seismology. Captain N. H. Heck, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, discussed recent developments in strong motion recording and showed excellent records of the Imperial Valley earthquake which had occurred a few days before the meeting; he gave interesting details of the effect of the European war on international scientific societies. Other papers of particular interest were: "Observations of Microseisms at Spring Hill College, Alabama," by A. J. Westland, S.J., and C. J. Elliot, S.J., of Spring Hill College; "The Earthquake Analyzer," by Arthur C. Ruge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and "A 'Synchronous Direct Cur-

rent Motor' for Seismograph Recorders," by J. H. Nelson, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Two topics were discussed at length by the entire section; H. E. McComb, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, led the discussion on "Instruments," and J. B. Macelwane, S.J., led that on "Seismic Prospecting." The leaders had prepared carefully questions and arguments on theoretical and practical aspects of seismology that provoked extended and at times heated debate.

The following officers were elected unanimously for next year: *Chairman*, A. J. Westland, S.J., Spring Hill College; *Vice-Chairman*, R. R. Bodle, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Secretary*, W. A. Lynch, Fordham University; *Treasurer*, H. Landsberg, Pennsylvania State College; *Fifth Member of the Executive Committee*, A. C. Ruge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An important resolution was adopted requesting the Electric Utilities of the United States to aim at closer frequency control to assist observatories and other scientific bodies in making time measurements.

An excellent luncheon served on Saturday by Xavier University provided a fitting close to a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive meeting.

WILLIAM A. LYNCH,
Secretary

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE BOTANICAL CONFERENCE AND FORAY AT THE ALLEGANY SCHOOL OF NATURAL HISTORY

A TOTAL of eighty naturalists participated in the botanical forays held at the Allegany School of Natural History over the week-end of June 21-23. The following societies were represented: Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Torrey Botanical Club, Burroughs-Audubon Club of Rochester, Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York, Western Pennsylvania Botanical Club and Sullivant Moss Society. The conference attracted botanists from a widely scattered area, including South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.