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# News and Notes

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The Senate unanimously passed the McMahon bill for the domestic control of atomic energy in a surprise move Saturday afternoon 1 June. The Selective Service bill which was to have been debated on Saturday was deferred until Monday, so that administration leaders had an opportunity to put the position of the United States on record before its policy is presented to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission on 14 June. The McMahon bill now goes to the House of Representatives where it will be referred to the House Military Affairs Committee. (A detailed analysis of the provisions of the McMahon bill was published in *Science*, 1946, 103, 133.) Two amendments were made on the Senate floor. One, sponsored by the McMahon Committee, prohibits any person from manufacturing or acquiring fissionable material or from using atomic energy in a weapon without a license from the Atomic Energy Commission. The other amendment, offered by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, would prohibit any person or corporation associated with wartime atomic bomb projects from asserting claims to any land which might contain raw materials for the manufacture of fissionable products.

In his speech for the bill Senator McMahon emphasized the biological and medical application of radioactive isotopes, although he also mentioned peaceful uses of nuclear energy for power.

Senator Vandenberg said that he hoped that the Senate action represented a transitional phase of atomic control and that this control would soon pass into the hands of the United Nations Commission.

Alexander G. Langmuir, a member of the Commission on Acute Respiratory Diseases at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, under the Army Epidemiological Board, has been appointed an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology of The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

John Chipman, professor of process metallurgy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1937, has been appointed head of the Institute's Department of Metallurgy. Dr. Chipman will succeed Robert S. Williams, who retires on 1 July after 44 years of service.

Reynold C. Fuson, University of Illinois, will receive the honorary degree of D.Sc. at Montana State University's commencement exercises on 10 June. Dr. Fuson was graduated from Montana State University in 1920 and has been on the faculty at the University of Illinois since 1927.

## Announcements

Edith S. Clements has presented to the Department of the Natural Sciences of Santa Barbara College a large collection of literature and maps and a quantity of laboratory instruments selected from the library and laboratory of her late husband, Frederic E. Clements. The material constitutes the Frederic E. Clements Memorial, dedicated to the encouragement of the study of plant ecology.

Particularly useful is the large collection of pamphlets and reprints from scientific journals collected throughout the long career of the Drs. Clements. These comprise a high percentage of the widely scattered literature on plant ecology, the Scandinavian, Swiss, and Slavic writings being particularly well represented. Also quite valuable is the great mass of descriptive literature dealing with the vegetation of North America. Probably between 3,000 and 4,000 items, ranging from reprints to whole volumes, many of them not yet classified, are included in the library collection.

Dr. Edith Clements has expressed a strong desire that her gift be utilized to the fullest extent, and to this end it is being organized for class use in courses in plant ecology and as a reference collection for research. It will also be available for the use of visitors and for interlibrary loan except in the case of fragile items. The map collection and the instruments will serve as the nucleus of the teaching aids and materials to be employed in a series of courses in plant ecology.

Under a contract with the War Department, a research program concerned with the development of standard laboratory methods for evaluating rat-repellent substances is now getting under way at the University of Pittsburgh. The program is sponsored by the Office of the Quartermaster General. Wayne Dennis, head of the Department of Psychology, is chairman of the advisory committee for the project, other members of the committee being Robert A. Patton, lecturer in psychology, and Roger W. Russell, assistant professor of psychology. Lawrence M. Stolurow has been appointed research psychologist for the project.

Rohrer, Hibler, and Replogle, consulting psychologists, announce the following additions to the staff: Edward M. Glaser, Los Angeles office; Mack T. Henderson and Ellwood W. Senderling, Chicago office; Richard W. Wallen, Cleveland office; and J. Watson Wilson, New York office.

*The American Meteorological Society*, through its president, H. G. Houghton, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, wishes to call to the attention of American colleges the fact that a large number of carefully selected college students were given training in professional meteorology at a few selected universities in this country, preparatory to their employment by the Army and Navy Meteorological Services. A number of these men, before entering the meteorological field, had done a considerable amount of graduate work in physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, geology, etc. and are now available for teaching and research in these fields.

In most of our colleges which offer nonprofessional courses in meteorology to meet the needs of students in geography, geology, and in agricultural subjects, it has been standard practice to have these nonprofessional courses taught by members of various departments. The return of many of the professionally trained service meteorologists offers an opportunity for our colleges to obtain the services of instructors who are capable of doing professional work in Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Geology, etc. and who at the same time are qualified, as experienced and trained professional meteorologists, to present stimulating nonprofessional courses in meteorology on a somewhat higher plane than may have been possible in the past.

The Society is anxious to cooperate with American colleges in providing information concerning these returning weather officers that might be helpful in placing them in suitable teaching positions. To that end, files have been kept which contain detailed information on the education and practical experience of these men.

Inquiries may be directed to the Executive Secretary, American Meteorological Society, 5 Joy Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.

Word has been received from China regarding the last years of Prof. Amadeus W. Grabau, whose death occurred 20 March 1946 in Peiping (*Science*, 1946, 103, 534). Prof. Grabau became a resident of China in 1920 and was, from that time on, chief paleontologist of the National Geological Survey of China and concurrently professor of paleontology in the National University of Peking. In 1937, when the Japanese took Peiping and North China by force, Prof. Grabau had been unable to leave that city because of illness and lack of communication facilities. Shortly afterward, the Geological Survey established its new headquarters in Chungking while the National University of Peking was forced to move to Kunming (Yunnan). Having been prevented from joining either of the two institutions, he remained in the old Chinese capital, continuing with his reading and writ-

ing. Shortly before the Sino-Japanese conflict he began researches on his "pulsation theory," and during a period of five or six years he completed four large volumes on *Paleozoic formations in the light of the pulsation theory*, which were published by Henri Vetch in Peiping. The last volume appeared in 1938, when fierce battles were being fought both in North and Central China. Following Pearl Harbor in 1941, he was interned by the Japanese, who housed him in the old British Embassy in Peiping. His health began to decline, and his mind became enfeebled. After the Japanese surrender, the authorities of the Geological Survey moved him to their premises at No. 3, Fengsheng Hutung, where he died at the age of 75.

*The Department of Geography, Northwestern University*, announces a graduate field course to be given 26 August to 28 September. The field centers on Lannon, Wisconsin, 15 miles northwest of Milwaukee, an area containing examples of virtually every glacial form. The course will be limited to 20 students. For further details address: Secretary, Department of Geography, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

*Karl v. Frisch*, professor of zoology at the University of Munich and a native of Austria, has written as follows in a letter dated 14 January 1946, from St. Gilgen (Salzburg), Brunnwinkl, in the Austrian Alps:

... work has never stopped in our laboratory. Only since the destruction of buildings has work become nearly impossible in the Munich Institute. I evacuated before this happened and for several years have carried on my scientific work nearly exclusively here on our old farm. To Munich I go only occasionally, for administrative purposes and discussions with my co-workers. Classes have not yet begun. . . .

I have only partial information on my colleagues. . . . When the bomb attacks became too bad, (Alfred) Kühn transferred the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biology to Hechingen. He has now moved the Institute to Tübingen, where he has also taken on the direction of the Zoology Department of the University. As you know, many departmental headships have become vacant due to dismissal of their incumbents. (Otto) Koehler (formerly Königsberg) was in Denmark when the (Russian) occupation came. I have not heard of him since. Goetseh is in Austria and I hope to see him within a few days. He was last in Breslau. Buddenbrock, who was in Vienna, cannot go back there since he is German. I understand that he is to go to Heidelberg where (Paul) Krüger has been dismissed. It is not yet decided who will take Seidel's position in Berlin. He has been dismissed. Hartmann lived on his farm in the Bavarian Alps. Perhaps he will return to the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. It is terribly sad that (Fritz) Wettstein died of the flu in Trins without any medical care. Renner is well. A few days ago I received a letter from him from

Jena. (Otto) Mangold too is one of those who were dismissed.

. . . I am much handicapped in my work by the loss of my scientific library, particularly reprints. It would be a great help if you on occasion (when it is possible to mail printed matter) could see to it that I were sent papers on the fields of sensory physiology, psychology, and apiculture.

Last summer I was much occupied again with the "language" of bees. Very unexpected results have turned out. . . —*Curt Stern* (University of Rochester).

## Elections

*The American Academy of Arts and Sciences* closed its 166th year on 8 May with the election of new fellows and seven honorary members. The scientists among the new members include: James Gilbert Baker, Harvard College Observatory; John Landes Barnes, head of the Department of Applied Mathematics, Tufts College; Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, professor of theoretical astrophysics, Yerkes Observatory; Lee Alvin DuBridge, head of the Department of Physics, University of Rochester; Julius Adams Stratton, professor of electrical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Paul Doughty Bartlett, associate professor of chemistry, Harvard University; Walter Hugo Stockmayer, assistant professor of chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William Loren Batt, president of S.K.F. Industries, Washington, D. C.; Howard Wilson Emmons, associate professor of mechanical engineering, Harvard University; Roland Frank Beers, research associate in geology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Cornelius Searle Hurlbut, Jr., associate professor of mineralogy, Harvard University; Ralph Erskine Cleland, head of the Department of Botany, Indiana University; George Wells Beadle, professor of biology, Stanford University; James Lee Peters, curator of birds, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University; Kenneth David Roeder, assistant professor of zoology, Tufts College; John Franklin Enders, associate professor of bacteriology and immunology, Harvard Medical School; Charles Alderson Janeway, assistant professor of pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; Siegfried Josef Thannhauser, clinical professor of medicine, Tufts College; Stanley Smith Stevens, associate professor of psychology and director of the Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory, Harvard University; Otto Eduard Neugebauer, research professor in the history of science, Brown University; Jan Hendrik Oort, director, Leiden Observatory, Holland; Bertil Lindblad, director, Stockholm Observatory, Sweden; and Rudolf Florin, professor and director Hortus Bergianus, Stockholm.

Howard M. Jones was elected president of the Academy, and Lewis Don Leet, corresponding secretary.

*The New Orleans Academy of Sciences* held its 93rd annual meeting at Tulane University, New Orleans, 26–27 April. The new officers for 1946–1947 are: J. Nelson Gowanloch, Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, president; William T. Penfound, Tulane University, vice-president; Walter G. Moore, Loyola University, secretary; Thomas T. Earle, Newcomb College, treasurer; and Garland F. Taylor, Tulane University, curator.

The retiring president, L. J. Pessin, presided at the general session which was followed by sectional meetings for the presentation of 36 scientific papers.

*The Medical Library Association* held its 45th annual meeting in New Haven, Connecticut, 25–27 March. The following officers were elected: Walton B. McDaniel, II, College of Physicians, Philadelphia, president; C. Abbott Beling, Newark, vice-president; Heath Babcock, New York State Medical Library, Albany, secretary; and Jurgen G. Raymond, New York Academy of Medicine, New York City, treasurer.

The program featured reports on the Army Medical Library, a symposium on "International Cooperation," and addresses on "Training for Medical Librarianship" and "British Medical Libraries in Wartime."

It was voted to hold the 1947 convention in Cleveland, Ohio, the exact date to be determined later.

*The South Carolina Academy of Science* held its 19th annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, 27 April. The following officers were elected: Velma D. Matthews, Coker College, president; J. E. Copenhaver, Sonoco Products Company, vice-president; and Charles F. Poole, U. S. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, secretary-treasurer. F. W. Kinard, J. R. Sampsey, G. Robert Lunz, Margaret Hess, and F. H. H. Calhoun were elected to the Council.

The meeting, the first since 1941, was attended by more than 100 persons, and 23 papers were presented.

*The Crystallographic Society* held its spring meeting at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, 21–23 March. The meeting was attended by 50 out of its total of 150 members. The following new officers were elected: M. J. Buerger, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, president; J. D. H. Donnay, The Johns Hopkins University, vice-president; and William Parrish, Philips Laboratories, Inc., Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, secretary-treasurer.

A detailed discussion of the proposed new *Journal of Crystallography* resulted in the adoption of eight tentative resolutions regarding publication, editorship, international representation, etc. These matters will be discussed further by members of the Society, the American Society for X-ray and Electron Diffraction, and British crystallographers and X-ray workers in a conference in London next July, to which scientists from several other countries have been invited.

The secretary was instructed by almost unanimous vote to send the following letter to the President and the Senators on the McMahon Committee:

A majority of the membership of the Crystallographic Society is in favor of legislation which places control of the atomic energy program in civilian hands.

### Proposal for an American Institute of Biology

The formation of an organization to serve the interests of biologists appears to be now on the way to realization. The Executive Committees of the Union of American Biological Societies and of the American Biological Society met at intervals during the past year to discuss problems facing biologists and to consider ways and means for securing more thorough cooperation among them. The matter had already been brought up at an informal gathering called by E. G. Butler, then president of the UABS during the Cleveland meetings of the AAAS, two years ago. Detlev Bronk was asked by the group to collect information for presentation at a later appropriate time. This was decided to be at an open meeting called by the UABS and ABS on the occasion of the recent St. Louis meetings of the AAAS and several of the national societies.

Dr. Bronk presented the need of an institute not only for the assistance of biologists professionally and scientifically but also for studying the problem of securing adequate training for those who plan to take up biology as their life work. He also stressed the need of making the profession of modern biology conducive to attracting the best brains of the country. It is highly desirable to have as close cooperation as possible among all operating organizations. A main feature is the importance of closely relating the proposed Institute with the National Research Council and having the Institute serve to strengthen and supplement the activities of the Council. Several services which such an institute can render are outlined in a recent article in the February issue of the *American Naturalist*. Dr. Bronk also outlined an immediate procedure of having the group already engaged draw up definite plans and secure necessary funds.

Following general discussion it was unanimously voted to have the original Cleveland group, with several others, form an initiating committee to proceed with the development of an American Institute of Biology. This committee is to invite other interested biologists who are in a position to contribute the needed time and energy. The membership of the enlarged committee will be selected with a view toward complete geographical distribution and adequate representation of the principal biological societies.

The meeting then adjourned with expressions of enthusiastic approval of the project as proposed.

Subsequent to the St. Louis meeting, several members of the initiating committee have met, and steps are being taken to secure necessary funds and to prepare tentative plans for organizing.

The project has been presented by R. F. Griggs, chairman of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council, at a recent meeting in Washington, to 26 representatives of the constituent national societies who approved.

At the meeting of the Council of the UABS in St. Louis the following statement was approved by the Council, which comprises 39 national societies:

To endorse the formation of an organization of biologists on the basis of the two following general propositions:

1. To provide a means for executing our public responsibilities as biologists and scientists, so that the freedom essential to the progress of science and public welfare will be insured.

2. To safeguard the professional interests of biologists and to assist in providing the material means for the promotion of biological research; also to provide such services as may be necessary to facilitate this program.

The statement was presented to several of the societies convening with the AAAS at St. Louis. It was officially endorsed by the Genetics Society of America, the Botanical Society of America, the American Society of Zoologists, the American Microscopical Society, and others. It was also endorsed by the American Association of Anatomists at their Cleveland meeting a week later. At the meetings of the Federation of Experimental Biology held at Atlantic City in February the proposition of an Institute was presented to the American Physiological Society, which passed a resolution recommending such action. Finally, a letter was received expressing the interest of the Biological Section of the Royal Society of Canada in the proposed American Institute of Biology.

It is expected that plans as they are being developed will be presented in the near future, together with a list of members of the initiating committee.—*Robert Chambers and J. S. Nicholas.*

### Recent Deaths

*Louis Slotin*, 35, a native of Winnipeg, Canada, died at Los Alamos 30 May, as a result of an accident 21 May while working with fissionable materials. The nature of the accident was not disclosed by N. E. Bradburg, project director, but he credited Dr. Slotin with dispersing the materials at the time of the accident, so that more workers were not affected. Seven other scientists and technicians were hospitalized but are reported to be recovering. Dr. Slotin, who received his Ph.D. from the University of London, went to Los Alamos from Oak Ridge in December, 1944. He had been at Oak Ridge for about a year.