Association Affairs

Meeting of the Southwestern Division of the AAAS

Flagstaff and Grand Canyon, Arizona, provided the locale for the 26th annual meeting of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, April 30–May 4. Arizona State College, Lowell Observatory, and the Museum of Northern Arizona were host institutions at Flagstaff; and most of the 150 scientists and students who attended the sessions also journeyed the 105 miles to the South Rim of Grand Canyon to participate in a dinner at El Tovar, and to hear the John Wesley Powell Memorial Lecture by Edwin D. McKee. Short field and inspection trips on the canyon rim, scheduled for May 4, were somewhat handicapped by fresh snow, but snow and a temperature in the mid-twenties failed to chill the enthusiasm that pervaded the meetings.

Of 89 papers listed in the program, 43 dealt with biological subjects, 29 with physical science, and 17 with the social sciences. In the biological field emphasis naturally fell upon Southwestern faunas and floras, but subjects of more general interest were by no means neglected. Two papers on antibiotics, several on physiological functions in man and beast, and an entire session devoted to plant pathology demonstrated that Southwestern biology does not suffer from provincialism, even though the special adjustments of plants and animals to the varied environments of the region would tempt any scientist to devote himself to local natural history. The African snail was featured as a major economic menace in the Pacific, not only in a sectional meeting, but also in a general lecture on Micronesia by Albert R. Mead.

The Physical Sciences Section arranged symposia in the fields of subatomic phenomena, pure chemistry, meteorites, and astronomy. In the symposium on subatomic phenomena, M. H. Wilkening, of the New Mexico School of Mines, described procedures for the determination of radioactiyity in the atmosphere caused by the adsorption of the disintegration products of radon on dust particles. The experimental results show that there are approximately 1500 alpha disintegrations per minute per cubic meter due to radon in the atmosphere. F. E. E. Germann and co-workers from the University of Colorado presented the results of experiments on the fluorescence of uranyl platinocyanides. Theodore G. Klose, of Arizona State College at Tempe, reported on the structure of synthetic musks, proving that Musk Ketone and Musk Tibetene are 4-t-butyl-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-dinitroacetophenon and 5-t-butyl-3,5-dinitrohemimellitene, respectively.

A new approach in estimating the mass of the meteorite that caused the Canyon Diablo crater was reported by Lincoln La Paz, of the University of New Mexico, who postulates that the meteorite must have had a mass of approximately 1,000,000 tons for it to have formed a crater 2,000 feet in diameter and 500 feet deep. H. H. Nininger, director of the American Meteorite Museum, Winslow, Arizona, discussed the use of the Knoop indenter technique on small fragments of the Canyon Diablo meteorite. Members of the staff from the Lowell Observatory of Flagstaff, Arizona, presented a series of papers on planetary atmospheres, and C. O. Lampland discussed a project on a new determination of the planet Pluto.

The Social Sciences Section's three technical sessions were concerned with recent archaeological discoveries in the Southwest, Indian culture, and analyses of social attitudes.

Following the Division's annual dinner, Oscar B. Muench, of New Mexico Highlands University, in his retiring presidential address discussed "Radioactivity and Its Relation to the Determination of Geologic Age" (to be published in an early issue of *The Scientific Monthly*). C. W. Botkin, of New Mexico A&M College,

Arthur Adel Oscar Muench C. W. Botkin Fred Emerson Jesse A. Hancock

NEW OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, AAAS

was elected to succeed Dr. Muench as president for 1950–51; Fred Emerson, of New Mexico Highlands University, succeeds H. H. Nininger as vice president. Arthur Adel, of Arizona State College, and Jesse A. Hancock, of Texas Western College, were elected to the Executive Committee. The Colorado delegation, headed by Frank E. E. Germann, secretary of the Division, announced regretfully that facilities at the University of Colorado will not be ready for use in the spring of 1951; hence, it was voted to hold the next meeting in El Paso, April 29–May 3, with Texas Western College as host.

HOWARD MEYERHOFF

Administrative Secretary

Program of Section G-Botanical Sciences, AAAS Cleveland Meeting, December 26–30

Arrangements have been completed for two of the symposia planned by Section G for the 117th Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Cleveland this December. These are:

I. *The Ecological Background of Evolution.* One session, Friday morning, December 29. Speakers include Herbert P. Riley, University of Kentucky; G. Ledyard Stebbins, Jr., University of California; Pierre Dansereau, University of Michigan; Colin Pittendrigh, Princeton University; Edgar Anderson, Missouri Botanical Garden; and David D. Keck, New York Botanical Garden. Titles will be announced at a later date. This symposium will also be of particular interest to the biological and zoological societies meeting with the Association.

II. *The Structure and Analysis of Plant Communities.* Two sessions, Saturday morning and afternoon, December 30. Speakers include Stanley A. Cain, Cranbrook Institute of Science; Francis C. Evans, University of Michigan; George W. Thomson, Ethyl Corporation; Lee R. Dice, University of Michigan; John T. Curtis, University of Wisconsin; and Grant Cottam, University of Wisconsin. Titles will be announced at a later date. This symposium will also be of particular interest to the members of the Biometric Society, Eastern North American Region, especially since it follows the six-session symposium on mathematical biology and biometry which this society is planning.

As announced in *Science* (May 12, p. 528), Section G will also hold sessions for contributed papers during the first part of the Association's meeting. For purposes of session room scheduling, tentative titles and subject classifications should be sent to the Secretary of Section G *as soon as possible.* Final titles may be submitted as late as *September 15.*

STANLEY A. CAIN, SECRETARY

Cranbrook Institute of Science,
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Scientific Book Register

Medical Physics, Volume II. Otto Glasser, Ed. Chicago, Ill.: Year Book Publ., 1950. 1227 pp. $25.00.

The Ants of North America. William Steel Creighton. Cambridge, Mass.: Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, 1950. 585 pp. and 57 plates.

The Foundations of Arithmetic: A Logico-Mathematical Enquiry into the Concept of Number or "Die Grundlagen der Arithmetik." Gottlob Frege; English trans. by J. L. Austin. Breslau: Verlag von Wilhelm Koebner, 1884; New York: Philosophical Library, 1950. 119 pp. German and English text. $4.75.

General Chemistry for Colleges. Jelks Barksdale. New York-London: Longmans, Green, 1950. 504 pp. $5.00.

First Principles of Atomic Physics. Richard F. Humphreys and Robert Beringer. New York: Harper, 1950. 390 pp. $4.50.

Mercury Arcs. 2nd ed. F. J. Teago and J. F. Gill. London: Methuen and Company; New York: John Wiley, 1949. 107 pp. $1.50.

Infrared Radiation Therapy Sources and Their Analysis with Scanner. Leopold Rovner. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1950. 34 pp. $1.50.

The Psychology of Exceptional Children. Rev. ed. Karl C. Garrison. New York: Ronald Press, 1950. 517 pp.

A Systematic Laboratory Course in General Chemistry. Harry H. Sisler and Jay J. Stewart. New York: Macmillan, 1950. 396 pp. $3.00.

The Christian Response to the Atomic Crisis. Edward LeRoy Long, Jr. Philadelphia 7: Westminster Press, 1950. 112 pp. $2.00.

Human Ecology: A Theory of Community Structure. Amos H. Hawley. New York: Ronald Press, 1950. 456 pp. $5.00.

X-Ray Optics: The Diffraction of X-Rays by Finite and Imperfect Crystals. A. J. C. Wilson. London: Methuen and Company; New York: John Wiley, 1949. 127 pp. $1.50.

Vector and Tensor Analysis. Harry Lass. New York-London: McGraw-Hill, 1950. 347 pp. $4.50.

The Use of Chemical Tests for Alcohol in Traffic Law Enforcement. Glenn C. Forrester. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1950. 91 pp. $2.00.

An Introduction to the Laplace Transformation. J. C. Jaeger. London: Methuen and Company; New York: John Wiley, 1949. 132 pp. $1.50.

Atoms of Thought: An Anthology of Thoughts from George Santayana. Ira D. Cardiff, Ed. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950. 284 pp. $5.00.