

Scientific Meetings

Pacific Division Meets

The 36th annual meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, was held at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, 20–25 June 1955. Twenty-five organizations participated in a program of 345 scientific papers. The registered attendance of 1307, exclusive of 65 exhibitor registrations, was the largest ever recorded for a meeting of the Pacific Division (see Table 1). Arrangements for the meeting were ably handled by a local committee and various subcommittees, under the general chairmanship of Arthur W. Galston.

Registration headquarters were set up outdoors under a spreading Englemann oak. There are few climates in the United States where a local committee would venture this liberty with the weather; but the Pasadena climate lived up to its reputation. Throughout the week the Englemann oak provided not only a center of registration and information, but also a pleasant place for people to meet.

Exhibits of scientific books and instruments were also set up outdoors, but in the shelter of an arcade provided by the porticoes of several academic buildings surrounding a rectangle of lawn. Forty exhibitors were represented. This area also served as a gathering place for informal meeting and discussion.

On 20 June, the evening session began with addresses of welcome by Lee A. DuBridge of the California Institute of Technology and by Mayor Warren Dorn of Pasadena, followed by remarks from George W. Beadle, president of the AAAS, and Robert B. Brode, president-elect of the Pacific Division. Up to this point the proceedings had moved along according to precedent. But something new had been added. The Caltech Stock Company, made up of faculty and students, presented a musical satire of completely professional caliber entitled "This is science?" No attempt will be made here to describe the indescribable, but the general flavor of the performance can be imparted by the titles of the lyrics, some of which were "That's not gneiss," "Drosophila blues," and "Exactly IQ," and by the chorus, "Let's advance on science (before science advances on us)." A good time was had by all.

The succeeding evening programs were definitely serious in vein and were centered in the theme of "Ideas." On Tuesday evening, 21 June, Linus Pauling, chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Caltech and 1954 Nobel laureate in chemistry, spoke on "The genesis of ideas." He was followed on Wednesday evening by Dean Rusk, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, who spoke on "The support of ideas." On Thursday evening, Will Burstin, designer and visual education investigator for industry, discussed "The communication of ideas." Thus, the evening addresses constituted a well-integrated trilogy.

At the meeting of the Divisional Council on Wednesday afternoon, it was unanimously voted to invite the American Statistical Association (Los Angeles Chapter), and the Biometric Society (Western North American Region) to become affiliated societies of the Pacific Division.

J. Murray Luck, professor of chemistry at Stanford University, was elected president-elect of the Pacific Division. The president of the Division for the coming year is Robert B. Brode, professor of physics, University of California at Berkeley. Edwin R. Guthrie (University of Washington), the retiring president, be-

came chairman of the executive committee. Joseph L. Williams (Stanford University) was elected a member of the executive committee. A. H. Joy (Mount Wilson and Palomar observatories) and Walter P. Cottam (University of Utah) were elected members-at-large of the council.

The following organizations participated in the Pasadena meeting: AAAS Section B—Physics, American Chemical Society (Southern California Section), American Meteorological Society, American Nature Study Society (Western Section), American Phytopathological Society (Pacific Division), American Society for Horticultural Science (Western Region), American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (Pacific Section), American Society of Plant Physiologists (Western Section), American Statistical Association (Los Angeles Chapter), Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (Pacific Division), Association of American Geographers), Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Biometric Society (Western North American Region), Botanical Society of America (Pacific Section), Cooper Ornithological Society (Northern and Southern Divisions), Ecological Society of America (Western Section), Federation of American Scientists (Los Angeles Branch), Geological Society of America (Cordilleran Section), Herpetologists League, National Science Foundation, Society of American Bacteriologists (Southern California, Northern California, and Hawaiian branches), Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine (Southern California and Pacific Coast sections), Society of Systematic Zoology (Pacific Section), Southern California Academy of Sciences, Western Psychological Associa-

Table 1. Geographic distribution of registrants*

Arizona	21	New York	4	Canada	
<i>California†</i>	1062	North Carolina	1	Alberta	5
Colorado	8	Ohio	2	<i>British Columbia</i>	6
District of Columbia	6	Oklahoma	2	England	3
Florida	4	<i>Oregon</i>	26	Germany	1
<i>Idaho</i>	0	Pennsylvania	5	<i>Hawaii</i>	6
Illinois	5	Texas	5	India	2
Indiana	2	<i>Utah</i>	40	Japan	1
Iowa	1	Vermont	1	New Zealand	2
Louisiana	1	Virginia	2	Salvador	1
Maryland	6	<i>Washington</i>	29	Scotland	2
Massachusetts	8	West Virginia	1	Tahiti	1
Michigan	4	Wisconsin	2	Venezuela	1
Minnesota	1	Total, continental		Yugoslavia	1
Missouri	3	United States	1271	Total, territorial and foreign	36
<i>Montana</i>	3				
Nebraska	2	Alaska	1		
<i>Nevada</i>	1	Australia	3	Total registration	1307
New Jersey	3				
New Mexico	10				

* Italics indicates the seven states, the territory of Hawaii, and the Canadian province of British Columbia that comprise the area of the Pacific Division of the AAAS. Their combined registration was 1173, or 90 percent of the total.

† There were 135 California communities represented, including 255 registrants from nearby Los Angeles, 205 from Pasadena, 65 from Riverside, 40 from Berkeley, and 35 from Davis.



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tion, and Western Society of Naturalists.

Press coverage was unusually good. The local papers in and around Los Angeles carried a total of 1745 inches of copy regarding the meeting, the equivalent of nearly 80 full columns of newsprint.

The next meeting of the Pacific Division will be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, June 18-23 1956.

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Meeting Notes

■ This year's annual convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers is scheduled to take place 24-28 Oct., a week later than usual. Ordinarily the convention is held during the week of the third Wednesday in October.

■ Almost 200 papers dealing with the application of science to the practical problems of protecting the health and pocketbook of consumers and farmers will be delivered at the 69th annual meeting of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., 10-12 Oct.

The AOAC is the scientific organization of state and federal employees that develops the laboratory methods for testing soils, feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, foods, drugs, and cosmetics which are required for the enforcement of laws regulating these commodities.

At this meeting the association will release the 8th edition of its publication *Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists*, a 1000-page compilation of methods of analysis for agricultural commodities that is used by law-enforcement, industrial, and research scientists throughout the world. This volume, which is revised every 5 years, was edited by William Horwitz of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, assisted by H. J. Fisher of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, A. H. Robertson of the New York State Food Laboratory, and Helen Reynolds, assistant editor of the association.

Heading the list of speakers at the scientific sessions will be I. M. Kolthoff, chairman of the department of analytic chemistry at the University of Minnesota. He will discuss the analytic applications of the rotated platinum electrode, a newly developed electrometric method of analysis capable of detecting very minute amounts of substances.

At the banquet session George P. Larrick, Commissioner of Foods and Drugs, will be the principal speaker. W. F. Reindollar of the AOAC will deliver the presidential address at an afternoon general session. All of the sessions are open to the public. The complete program may be obtained by writing the association at Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington 4, D.C.

Forthcoming Events

October

30-1. West Virginia Science Fair Work Conf., Weston. (D. E. Large, Science Fair Program, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tenn.)

31-1. East Coast Conf. on Aeronautical and Navigational Electronics of Inst. of Radio Engineers, Baltimore, Md. (G. R. White, Bendix Radio Div., Bendix Aviation Corp., Towson 4, Md.)

31-4. American College of Surgeons, 41st annual clinical cong., Chicago, Ill. (P. R. Hawley, 40 E. Erie St., Chicago.)

31-5. Conf. on Solar Energy, Scientific Basis, Tucson, Ariz. (31-1 Oct.); World Symposium on Applied Solar Energy, Phoenix, Ariz. (1-5 Nov.). (M. L. Kastens, Stanford Research Inst., Stanford, Calif.)