Gordon Research Conferences

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The Gordon Research Conferences, AAAS, provide opportunities for the advancement of science that are not now available at any other type of scientific meeting. They have been named in recognition of the vision and initiative of the late Neil E. Gordon. The conferences were started in 1931 at Johns Hopkins University under the sponsorship of the department of chemistry. In 1937, when Gordon was secretary of Section C—the conferences were reorganized under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was Gordon's belief that scientific men and women could profit by knowing each other better and by having an opportunity to discuss their scientific interests in a leisurely and informal manner amid pleasant surroundings. It requires time to grasp thoroughly another person's point of view, and this can best be accomplished by relatively unhurried, friendly exchange of information, with ample opportunity for thought.

It has been the primary purpose of the Gordon Research Conferences to stimulate research in universities, research foundations, and industrial laboratories by an informal type of meeting consisting of lectures and open discussion. Sufficient time is made available to permit ample discussion among the members of the conference. This type of meeting is a valuable means of exchange of information and the stimulation of ideas that are not realized through the normal channels of publication and scientific meetings. Scientists become better acquainted, and valuable associations are formed that often result in collaboration and cooperative efforts between different laboratories.

The program for the summer of 1955 included 36 conferences, 12 at each of the 3 locations—Colby Junior College, New London, N. H.; New Hampton School, New Hampton, N. H.; and Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N. H. The complete program for each conference, as well as general information on application for attendance, registration, and cost was published in *Science* last spring [**121**, 571 (22 Apr. 1955)].

Attendance at each conference is limited to 100 scientists, who are selected from among those who apply. Selection is based on the expected active participation in the subjects to be discussed. The total attendance at the 1955 conferences was 3,336 scientists, each active in advancing knowledge in the subject of the conference he attended. There were 38 eminent foreign scientists who actively participated in the various conferences. The foreign countries represented were Belgium, Canada, England, France, Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Panama, Scotland, and Sweden. Financial assistance for foreign scientists to attend the conferences is provided by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. There were 5 new conferences held in 1955. These conferences were "Blood," "Plant biochemistry and agriculture," "Glass," "High-pressure research and techniques," and "Fats and oils."

The Gordon Research Conferences are highly regarded by scientists throughout the world. The general pattern of scientific value has been established. Each conference extends the frontiers of science. The purpose of the program is not to review known information, but primarily to bring experts up to date on the latest developments, to analyze the significance of these developments, and to provoke suggestions concerning the underlying theories and profitable methods of approach for making new progress. Information presented at the conferences is not to be used without the specific authorization of the individual who makes the contribution, whether in formal presentation or in discussion. Scientific reports are not published as emanating from the conferences.

The conferences are administered by a Management Committee and a Council. The Council is composed of sponsors' representatives, the conference chairmen, and 15 elected academic members-at-large. The Management Committee is elected by and from the Council. Its members are Arthur K. Doolittle, chairman; Robert W. Schiessler, chairman-elect; John A. Behnke; H. E. Carter; Bernard L. Oser; George Scatchard; and Raymond Stevens.

The topics, dates, and chairmen of the conferences to be held in the summer of 1956 follow.

Colby Junior College

Catalysis, 11–15 June, H. H. Voge; Petroleum, 18–22 June, J. S. Ball; Separation and Purification, 25–29 June, H. G. Cassidy; Polymers, 2–6 July, C. G. Overberger; Textiles, 9–13 July, G. R. Seidel; Corrosion, 16–20 July, J. J. Harwood; Instrumentation, 23–27 July, Donald Williamson; Elastomers, 30 July–3 Aug., B. S. Biggs; Food and Nutrition, 6–10 Aug., Robert A. Harte; Vitamins and Metabolism, 13–17 Aug., Karl Folkers; Medicinal Chemistry, 20–24 Aug., Bernard B. Brodie; Cancer, 27–31 Aug., H. S. N. Greene.

New Hampton School

Organic Reactions and Processes, 11–15 June, Robert B. Carlin; Metals at High Temperatures, 18–22 June, V. N. Krivobok; Proteins and Nucleic Acids, 25–29 June, G. B. Brown; Coal, 2–6 July, H. H. Storch; Radiation Chemistry, 9–13 July, R. L. Platzmann; Organic Coatings, 16–20 July, Harry Burrell; Chemistry and Physics of Metals, 23–27 July, Bruce Chalmers; Steroids and Related Natural Products, 30 July–3 Aug., Joseph Fried; Analytical Chemistry, 6–10 Aug., W. D. Cooke; Inorganic Chemistry, 13–17 Aug., John Gall; Statistics in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, 20–24 Aug., Lee Crump; Adhesion, 27–31 Aug., Richard F. Blomquist.

Kimball Union Academy

Lipids, 11–15 June, E. H. Ahrens, Jr.; Stream Sanitation, 18–22 June, C. N. Sawyer; Nuclear Chemistry, 25–29 June, L. Yaffe; Chemistry and Physics of Isotopes, 2–6 July, T. I. Taylor; Solid-State Studies in Ceramics, 9–13 July, J. R. Johnson; Bones and Teeth, 16–20 July, R. F. Sognnaes; Chemistry at Interfaces, 23–27 July, W. M. Bright; Ion Exchange, 30 July–3 Aug., H. C. Thomas; High-Pressure Research, 6–10 Aug., E. W. Comings; Toxicology and Safety Evaluations, 13–17 Aug., B. L. Oser; Infrared Spectroscopy, 20–24 Aug., E. R. Blout; Glass, 27–31 Aug., O. L. Anderson.

The complete program for each conference will be published in the 2 March issue of *Science*.

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