Meetings and Societies

International Society of Bioclimatology and Biometeorology

A new organization—the International Society of Bioclimatology and Biometeorology—was created in Paris, France, during the period 29–31 Aug. 1956. Some 60 scientists from 15 nations (Austria, Canada, France, French West Africa, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and United States) who represented a wide range of biological, medical, and meteorological interests attended the 3-day administrative and scientific sessions held in UNESCO House. S. W. Tromp, of Leiden, the Netherlands, was primarily responsible for bringing to fruition the long-nurtured idea of an international society in the area, and he almost single-handedly organized this first meeting. Strong support was received from the membership, which numbers about 325, from UNESCO and from the World Meteorological Organization.

The executive board of the society consists of the following: president, F. Sargent II (physiologist, United States); vice presidents, E. Boyko (botanist, Israel), H. Berg (meteorologist, Germany), and L. Emberger (botanist, France); advisory members, W. E. Arnould-Taylor (biologist, Great Britain) and W. G. Wellington (entomologist, Canada); secretary-treasurer, S. W. Tromp, (geophysicist, the Netherlands).

A governing council of 20 members, one from each country represented in the total membership, was appointed (K. Buettner is the United States representative). Several administrative matters were unanimously approved: the statutes of the society, a membership committee, and formation of study committees covering special areas of bioclimatology and biometeorology. Four such study committees were initiated: committee on allergy, R. Alemany-Vall (Spain), chairman; committee on ecological climatography, E. Boyko (Israel), chairman; committee on ionization of the air, J. H. Kornbleuh (United States), chairman; and committee on instrumentation and methods, J. D. Griffiths (Great Britain), chairman. There was discussion of a proposal to form a committee on nautical bioclimatology.

Plans were made to create an international clearinghouse for bioclimatology and biometeorology. The headquarters will be at the address of the secretary-treasurer of the society (S. W. Tromp, Hofbrouckerlaan 54, Oegstgeest (Leiden), Netherlands. The aims of the clearinghouse are (i) to facilitate exchange of information, progress reports on research, and bibliographic material (reprints and photocopies of publications) among persons interested in bioclimatology and biometeorology and (ii) to prepare bibliographies of current publications and of special areas of bioclimatology and biometeorology. The latter would be published in a technical journal of the society.

It was voted that the executive board should explore the possibilities of creating a journal. The contents of the journal would consist of transactions of meetings, bibliographic information on literature on bioclimatology and biometeorology, short articles and notes on research in progress, queries for information, periodic critical reviews of special areas of bioclimatology and biometeorology, and reports of committees of the society.

A definition and description of bioclimatology and biometeorology were unanimously adopted: "Bioclimatology and biometeorology comprise the study of the direct and indirect interrelations between the geophysical and geochemical environment and living organisms, plants, animals, and man.

"The term *environment* is broadly conceived and includes micro-, macro-, and cosmic environments and the diverse physical and chemical factors which comprise these environments.

"Investigations in these disciplines are conducted in nature and in the laboratory under as rigidly controlled conditions as possible to describe measurable and reproducible physical, chemical, and biological factors which show a sufficiently high statistical correlation with measurable physiological and pathological processes to suggest a valid cause and effect relationship between organism and environment."

Finally, the membership resolved to cooperate with international and national organizations in allied fields, to support existing abstracting services, and to hold international scientific congresses.

Areal reports were given on the nature and scope of research and training in bioclimatology and biometeorology in various regions: Egypt, France, Israel, and Spain, by L. Emberger; French West Africa, by J. P. Nicholas; the Americas (except Canada), by D. H. K. Lee; Southeast Asia, by E. M. Glaser; Canada, by W. G. Wellington; Great Britain, Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa, by J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson; and northwestern Europe (except France and Great Britain), by K. Knoch and S. W. Tromp.

The reports were discussed by the members. Special invited papers were read: "Biologische Einflüsse von Elektro-Aerosolen," by H. Cauer; "Die biologische Wirkung negativ und positiv geladener Aerosole und der direkten negativen and positiven Aufladung des menschlichen Organismus," by K. H. Schulz; "Nautical bioclimatology," by Guido d'Avanzo and L. M. Carles; "Possible cosmic effects in bioclimatology," by G. Piccardi; and "Ionic research in bioclimatology," by W. W. Hicks and J. D. Beckett. Short informal papers were presented by K. Buettner on water reabsorption by soil and skin, D. H. K. Lee on a physiological index of climatic stress, and J. Pichotka on weather and coagulation of blood.

F. Sargent II
Department of Physiology, University of Illinois, Urbana
K. Buettner
Department of Meteorology and Climatology, University of Washington, Seattle
D. H. K. Lee
Office of the Quartermaster-General, Washington, D.C.

Microbiology in Mexico

The Primer Congreso Nacional de Microbiología, sponsored by the Asociación Mexicana de Microbiología, was held in Mexico City, 17–20 Oct. 1956. This first attempt of the association to conduct a meeting of this magnitude was a complete success and reflects the interest in microbiology to be found in Mexico. The organizing committee included Carlos del Río Estrada, president of the association, and Adolfo Pérez Miravete, coordinating president of the congress.

There were 273 registrants, representing 13 cities in Mexico and five foreign countries. Among the foreign visitors were Guillermo Muñoz Rivas of Bogota and the following from the United

States: Geoffrey Rake, Carlos España and Mrs. España, Joseph L. Rabinovich, and Francis B. Gordon who acted as official representative of the Society of American Bacteriologists.

The scientific sessions, which took place at the Instituto de Salubridad y Enfermedades Tropicales, were inaugurated by Ignacio Morones Prieto, Secretary of Public Health and Welfare of the Republic of Mexico. Of the 86 papers presented, 36 dealt with medical bacteriology and related subjects, 20 with general, industrial, or agricultural bacteriology, 14 with virology, 13 with parasitology, and 3 with mycology.

High points of the program were the three symposia on poliomyelitis, malaria, and antibiotics, respectively. The first described work on poliomyelitis being conducted at two different laboratories in Mexico, including data on manufacture of the vaccine. During the second symposium, Marques Escobedo, office of the Secretary of Public Health and Welfare, described the campaign in Mexico for the eradication of malaria. Discussion of various aspects of antibiotics as related to human medicine and to control of plant diseases made up the third symposium.

At the closing session of the congress several announcements of general interest to microbiologists were made: (i) A Type Culture Collection has been created, to be maintained under the sponsorship of the Asociación Mexicana de Microbiología. (ii) An Asociación Latinoamericana de Microbiología has been formed, consisting of representatives of 14 countries of Central and South America. Among its future activities will be joint sponsorship, with the Mexican Association, of a second Congress of Microbiology in Mexico City at an appropriate date. (iii) The need for a Latin American journal of microbiology was discussed. Its future development was left in the hands of the Mexican Association.

FRANCIS B. GORDON
Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Maryland

Comparative Biology of Marine Species

Between 27 June and 4 July 1956, 44 invited participants and 27 observers representing 14 nations met at the Biological Station of the University of Paris in Roscoff, France, for the purpose of an international marine colloquium. The subject was "The comparative biology of marine species in different districts of their area of distribution."

The meetings were sponsored by IUBS (International Union of Biological Sciences) under the general chairmanship of S. Horstadius (Sweden), but the detailed arrangements and conduct of the colloquium were under the direction of Pierre Drash, associate director of the Roscoff Station and professor of zoology at the University of Paris. The participants were the guests of the University of Paris for the duration of the conference. American participants were R. Buchsbaum (Pittsburgh), T. H. Bullock (California), A. Buzzati-Traverso (Scripps), R. W. Hiatt (Hawaii), C. L. Prosser (Illinois), B. T. Scheer (Oregon), and R. I. Smith (California).

The papers were delivered in English or French, and simultaneous translation was available in the alternate language through earphones. Papers presented were on the reproduction of the oyster on the coasts of Europe (P. Korringa, Holland); life-history of *Calanus* (a copepod) in different latitudes (A. P. Orr, England); growth and reproduction of marine algae in different regions (T. Levring, Sweden, and J. Feldman, France); meristic characters in fishes in relation to temperature and water movements (Scheer); paleoecological factors in the sea (Buchsbaum); combined influence of temperature and salinity (J. Verwey, Holland); lethal temperature as a tool for the taxonomist (F. E. J. Fry, Canada); inshore temperatures (H. Barnes, Scotland); physiological variation (Prosser); plankton (W. Harder, Germany); population differences in temperature adaptation (Bullock); genetic variation in relation to morphological variation in a snail, *Purpura* (H. R. Staiger, Switzerland); sexual variation (G. Bacci, Italy); tolerance of low salinities by nereids and its relation to temperature and reproduction (Smith); comparative biology of nereids (M. Durchon, France); comparative biology of crabs, Carcinides, in the Mediterranean (A. Veillet, France); sexual cycles of *Mytilus* sp. (P. Lubet, France); suggestions for the determination of biological cycles (Drash); length of the intestine of fishes and latitude (Harder); hydrozoans (B. Swedmark, Sweden); a program of study of comparative biology of marine species (O. Kinne, Germany); *Artemia* and *Mytilus* in the North Sea and in the Baltic (C. Schlieper, Germany); comparative ecology of Idotea (G. Petit, France); genetic research on different races of Tigriopus (Br. Bozic, Yugoslavia); biometric studies on different races (G. Teissier, France).

In addition to their papers, the participants discussed various ways of facilitating international cooperation in research and exchange of information and adopted the following resolutions:

"The International Conference on Comparative Marine Biology sponsored by the IUBS, attended by scientists of fourteen nations, and held June 27 to July 4, 1956, at the Biological Station of Roscoff, having had this outstanding opportunity of surveying the present status of comparative marine biology requests that IUBS, ICSU, UNESCO, and FAO focus their attention on, and stimulate the action of, national agencies towards the support and extension of basic research in marine biology. Human societies have reached a stage at which their progress depends upon the acquisition of knowledge at a fundamental level. Current progress in marine biology is slow and lags behind that in many other sciences; concerted effort should be made to remedy this situation. Great diversity of biological phenomena exist in the sea whose study is essential to an understanding of basic biological processes. Only as the problems are attacked will the vast marine resources of economic importance be successfully exploited.

"It appears necessary at this moment to: (i) Increase the number of permanent positions in the sciences converging on marine biology; (ii) provide for technical personnel to permit the establishment of a world-wide program designed to obtain continuous records of basic information of a physical, chemical, and biological nature, fundamental to marine biology; (iii) take steps to further collaboration with existing bodies devoted to marine science, *e.g.*, ISC, UGGI, CPEM, and so forth; (iv) further international cooperation by supporting fellowships, travel, meetings, and an international information service; (v) establish a committee to further these resolutions and to represent the interests revealed in this conference.

"The elucidation of the factors affecting the distribution of marine animals can only be accomplished by general biological, physiological, and genetical studies of species. Cooperation on a wide scale is essential.

"This conference has revealed numerous and important gaps in our knowledge within this field of comparative biology; these could be filled by cooperative international effort. The conference has shown that there is much international goodwill directed towards this end; the following suggestions are made to encourage progress in this direction: (i) Investigations of the biology of species throughout their geographical range. We recommend programs of the following nature, leading to a synthesis of evolutionary, physiological and ecological marine biology: (*a*) morphometric characters of marine animals and plants; (*b*) life cycles and their adjustment to periodic and other environmental variations; (*c*) species replacement and community structure; (*d*) physiological responses and tolerances to stresses imposed by varying temperature, salinity, nutritive factors, and so forth; (*e*) the flux of matter and energy through organisms and communities, the resulting balance

sheets and the internal mechanisms involved; (*f*) the genetical background of variation and the effects of selection on some experimental populations. (ii) The collection of basic information. We recommend that institutes should be encouraged to set up programs designed to obtain continuous records of those variables required by many studies: a mechanism for outstanding techniques and distributing the results should be established. The information required is of a physical, chemical, and biological nature. While realizing that the amount of information that it will be possible for any given institute to collect under any of these headings must necessarily vary with the facilities and personnel, we would particularly draw attention to the following: (*a*) temperature, salinity, *p*H, oxygen content, nutrient elements, organic matter, plant pigments, light intensity, and transparency. These should be measured regularly; (*b*) faunistic and floristic lists should be published; every effort should be made to have available at least a list of the common species of a given region and if possible information on breeding seasons and abundance."

RALPH BUCHSBAUM
Department of Biological Sciences,
University of Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Society Elections

■ American Medical Writers' Association: pres., Dean F. Smiley, Chicago, Ill.; pres.-elect, Charles E. Lyght, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Rahway, N.J.; 1st v. pres., Morris Fishbein, Chicago, Ill.; 2nd v. pres., Theo R. Van Dellen, Chicago, Ill.; sec.-treas., Harold Swanbert, 510 Maine St., Quincy, Ill.

■ American College of Dentists: pres., Gerald D. Timmons, Temple University School of Dentistry; pres.-elect, Alfred C. Young; v. pres., Thomas J. Hill; sec., Otto W. Brandhorst, 4221 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8; treas., William N. Hodgkin.

■ Tennessee Academy of Science: pres., Isabel H. Tipton, University of Tennessee; pres.-elect, Arlo I. Smith, Southwestern at Memphis; sec., Donald Caplenor, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville; treas., Harris J. Dark, David Lipscomb College. Representative to the AAAS Council is Clinton L. Baker.

■ Association of Military Surgeons: pres., Col. Amos R. Koontz. The vice presidents are Col. Charles R. Mueller, Brig. Gen. H. H. Twitchell, Maj. Gen. Wallace H. Graham, Ass't. Surg. Gen. John W. Cronin, Maj. Gen. James P. Cooney, and Rear Adm. Irwin L. V. Norman.

Forthcoming Events

January

14–16. Cottonseed Processing as Related to the Nutritive Value of the Meal, 4th conf., New Orleans, La. (Southern Regional Research Lab., USDA 1100 Robert E. Lee Blvd., New Orleans 19.)

14–16. Reliability and Quality Control in Electronics, 3rd natl. symp., Washington, D.C. (C. M. Ryerson, Radio Corp. of America, Bldg., 10–6, Camden 2, N.J.)

14–18. Society of Automotive Engineers, annual. Detroit, Mich. (Meetings Div., SAE, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

14–20. Indian Science Cong. Assoc., 44th meeting, Calcutta, India. (General Secretary, ISCA, 1 Park St., Calcutta 16.)

15. Society for Applied Spectroscopy, Philadelphia, Pa. (F. M. Biffen, Johns-Manville Research Center, Manville, N.J.)

16–23. Australian and New Zealand Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, 32nd meeting, Dunedin, N.Z. (J. R. A. McMillan, ANZAAS, Science House, 157 Gloucester St., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.)

17. Constructive Medicine in Aging: Cardiovascular Disorders in the Aged, symp., Cincinnati, Ohio. (J. B. Chewning, Wm. S. Merrell Co., Cincinnati 15.)

17–18. Engineers Joint Council, New York, N.Y. (EJC, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

18–19. Symposium on Blood, 6th annual, Detroit, Mich. (W. H. Seegers, Wayne State Univ. Coll. of Medicine, Detroit 7.)

21–22. Solar Furnace Design and Operation, Phoenix, Ariz. (J. I. Yellott, Assoc. for Applied Solar Energy, 3424 N. Central Ave., Phoenix.)

21–25. American Inst. of Electrical Engineers, winter general, New York, N.Y. (N. S. Hibshman, AIEE, 39 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

23–25. Very Low Frequency Electromagnetic Waves, symp., Boulder, Colo. (J. R. Wait, National Bureau of Standards Boulder.)

24–25. Western Spectroscopy Assoc. 4th annual, Los Angeles, Calif. (S. S. Ballard, Scripps Inst. of Oceanography, San Diego 52, Calif.)

25. Bibliographical Soc. of America, New York, N.Y. (H. W. Liebert, Yale Univ. Library, New Haven, Conn.)

25–26. Protein Metabolism, 13th annual conf., New Brunswick, N.J. (W. H. Cole, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J.)

28–29. Many Body Problem, symp., Hoboken, N.J. (G. J. Yevick, Dept. of Physics, Stevens Inst. of Technology, Hoboken.)

28–31. American Meteorological Soc., New York, N.Y. (K. C. Spengler, AMS, 3 Joy St., Boston 8, Mass.)

28–31. Modern Methods of Analytical Chemistry, 10th annual symp., Baton Rouge, La. (P. W. West, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.)

30–1. American Assoc. of Physics Teachers, New York, N.Y. (F. Verbrugge, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.)

30–2. American Physical Soc., annual, New York, N.Y. (K. K. Darrow, APS, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

30–31. College-Industry Conf., 9th annual, American Soc. for Engineering Education, Los Angeles, Calif. (Univ. of California Extension, Engineering, Los Angeles 24.)

31–1. Digital Computing in the Aircraft Industry, NYU–IBM symposium, New York, N.Y. (M. Woodbury, New York Univ., Research Div., 401 W. 205 St., New York, N.Y.)

31–2. Western Soc. for Clinical Research, 10th annual, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif. (A. J. Seaman, WSCR, Univ. of Oregon Medical School, Portland 1.)

February

3. American Assoc. of Bioanalysts, 3rd annual Margaret Beattie Lecture, San Francisco, Calif. (W. N. Reich, Walnut Creek-Lafayette, Laboratories, 1625 Locust St., Walnut Creek, Calif.)

4–8. American Soc. for Testing Materials, Philadelphia, Pa. (R. J. Painter, ASTM, 1916 Race St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.)

10–12. Canadian Ceramic Soc., 55th annual, Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada. (L. C. Keith, 49 Turner Road, Toronto, Ont.)

14. Present Status of Heart Sound Production and Recording, symp., Buffalo, N.Y. (R. M. Kohn, Univ. of Buffalo, 2183 Main Street, Buffalo 14, N.Y.)

14. Significance of Nucleic Acid Derivatives in Nutrition, Assoc. of Vitamin Chemists, Chicago, Ill. (M. Freed, Dawe's Laboratories, Inc., 4800 S. Richmond St., Chicago 32.)

14–15. Transistor Circuits, conf., Philadelphia, Pa., (G. H. Royer, Westinghouse Electric Corp., 356 Collins Ave., Pittsburgh 6, Pa.)

15–16. National Soc. of Professional Engineers, Charleston, S.C. (P. H. Robbins, 2029 K St., NW, Washington 6.)

15–17. National Assoc. for Research in Science Teaching, annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (C. M. Pruitt, Univ. of Tampa, Tampa, Fla.)

18–20. American Educational Research Assoc., annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (F. W. Hubbard, AERA, 1201 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

18–22. American Soc. of Civil Engineers, Jackson, Miss. (W. H. Wisely, ASCE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

18–22. Endocrinology: Hormones in Blood, Ciba Found. Colloq. (by invitation), London, England. (G. E. W. Wolstenholme, 41 Portland Place, London, W.1.)

21–23. National Soc. of College Teachers of Education, annual, Chicago, Ill. (C. A. Eggertsen, School of Education, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

23. American Mathematical Soc., New Haven, Conn. (J. H. Curtiss, AMS, 190 Hope St., Providence 6, R.I.)

23. Oregon Acad. of Science, annual, Monmouth. (F. A. Gilfillan, Oregon State College, Corvallis.)

24–28. American Inst. of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, annual, New Orleans, La. (E. O. Kirkendall, AIME, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

(See issue of 21 December for comprehensive list)