

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N.Y.

AT A WELL-ATTENDED Staff meeting last Monday Dr. Thatcher told of some of the purposes and accomplishments of the President's Agricultural Conference. While the time was too limited for much detail as to the workings of the Conference, Dr. Thatcher related many incidents of interest in connection with the hearings and deliberations. There were three well-defined points of view held by those interested in agriculture at the time that the Conference was called, said Dr. Thatcher, one being that nothing should be done by the government for the farmer; another that immediate government aid should be extended to agriculture in the form of protection similar to that afforded industry by the tariff, exemplified by the effort to create an export corporation which would absorb the exportable surplus of agricultural commodities produced in the United States; and the third point of view, namely, that the Government should endeavor to create some stabilizing agency for agriculture similar to the Federal Reserve Board for banking, the Federal Trade Commission for business, the Interstate Commerce Commission for transportation, etc. This last conception of the needs of agriculture was the one arrived at by the President's Conference, and found its culmination in the proposed Federal Cooperative Marketing Board. Most of the publicity given to the work of the Conference centered about the creation of this Board, with the result that the public heard little or nothing of the recommendations of the Conference that were approved without question by Congress and enacted into law. There were six or seven such recommendations, said Dr. Thatcher, the most important from the standpoint of a permanent agricultural policy in his estimation being the passage of the Purnell bill providing for additional federal support for research in agriculture. Just what the future course of the President's Conference would be Dr. Thatcher was unable to say, but undoubtedly some action will be requested of the new Congress on the proposal to establish a stabilizing agency for agriculture in the form of the proposed Cooperative Marketing Board or something similar.

THE COMMITTEE on Staff business announced that a meeting of the Staff will be called Monday, March 30, at which time Dr. Ladd, Director of Extension at the College at Ithaca will discuss the extension activities and the Station's relation to the extension work. It is the plan of the Committee at this time to follow the meeting with a supper, after which Dr. Hedrick will talk on a subject of general interest to the Staff. More details of the plans will be forthcoming later.

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DR. THATCHER left for Albany last night on a hurry-up call in connection with the budget. The passage of this important measure is expected at an early date.

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ANNOUNCEMENT was made last Monday of the resignation of Dr. Fred P. Nabenhauer. Fred has accepted a position of Research Chemist with the Smith, Kline, and French Company of Philadelphia, manufacturers of pharmaceutical supplies, and expects to leave Geneva the latter part of this month. We extend congratulations and best wishes for every success to the Nabenhauers in their new venture in the City of Brotherly Love.

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DR. AND MRS. BREED spent the week-end at Dr. Breed's home in Pennsylvania.

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THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE of the Staff announces that it will distribute at an early date a questionnaire to be used in making up the historical record of the scientific personnel at the Station. The cooperation of the Staff is earnestly solicited in order that the record may be made as complete as possible. While no one probably will hesitate to give their name, age, birthplace, parentage, state of matrimony, etc., the Committee is especially desirous of getting complete information on other matters, such as special recognition by scientific, political, or civic bodies, etc. These items may be covered by brief memoranda setting forth the facts in the case without elaboration. Membership on the National Research Council, appointment to special committees or commissions of national or international importance, travels in foreign lands, etc., etc., are all fit subjects for brief mention in the historical record. In a word, the Committee would like to have it kept in mind that the historical record is being prepared for the benefit of future generations of workers at the Geneva Experiment Station rather than for present-day consumption.

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MR. PARROTT is spending some time this week attending meetings in the Hudson River Valley.

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MISS OAKS informs the NEWS that she will be sending off a lot of material to the bindery the last of the month and that she will be glad to include any private binding that may be desired at that time.

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MRS. MOORE, "Mid's" Mother, leaves today for her home in Maine. Mrs. Moore has been visiting the baby (and its parents) for the past few weeks.

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THE FOLLOWING new books have been received in the Library the past week: Preparation of Scientific and Technical Papers, by Trelease and Yule; The Humanizing of Knowledge, by Robinson; and Scientific Research and Human Welfare, by Harris and Butt.