



STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N. Y.

ELECTION RESULTS

The ballots are all counted in the recent election of standing committees of the professional staff for 1948-49, and here are the results. A total of 49 votes were cast, and although some candidates swept the field, others saw victory with as small a margin as 25 to 24. On the Policy Committee, Dr. P. J. Chapman and Dr. D. B. Hand were elected. To the Library Committee, Dr. L. A. Carruth and Dr. A. W. Avens; to the Publications and Information Committee, Dr. Z. I. Kertesz; to the Graduate School Committee, Dr. R. E. Foster; to the Nominations Committee, Dr. J. M. Hamilton, and to the College of Agriculture, Experiment Station Policy Committee, Dr. G. E. R. Hervey and Dr. J. C. Moyer were elected.

FARM AND HOME WEEK

The programs have arrived for the 37th annual Farm and Home Week of the New York State Colleges of Agriculture, Home Economics, and Veterinary Medicine which will take place at Ithaca, April 6 to 9. This first post-war "Farmer's Week" is packed with lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits, and we note that several of the Station staff members are taking part.

"SHOE SHINE"

The Ceres Circle reminds us that the Geneva Women's Clubs are sponsoring the showing of the Italian film, "Shoe Shine", at Geneva High School, April 2 and 3 at 8:00 P. M. Proceeds from the film, as well as from the mite boxes placed around town, will go toward the Crusade for Children, whose purpose is to provide food for foreign children.

"OPEN HOUSE"

The Food Science and Technology Division's "Open House" which was tentatively scheduled for April 2nd, has been postponed until April 21st. Conflicts with the Hospital Campaign and Farm and Home Week have necessitated setting the date back.

VISIT SEED LABS

A class of Veterans from Penn Yan, doing their on-the-job training in agriculture, toured the seed laboratories yesterday morning. The group had made similar visits to other Station divisions in the past.

FROM CALIFORNIA

A recent letter from Dr. M. W. Yale, formerly of the Bacteriology Division here and now in California, tells of the serious condition of Mrs. Yale. Letters from her Geneva friends will be welcomed by the Yales, whose address is 120 South 6th Street, Paterson, California.

MEETINGS

Dr. Hand, Dr. Pederson, and Dr. Lee attended the meeting of the Advisory Council for Frozen Food Work last Friday, when they had a chance to talk with people from the Nutrition School, as well as Utility and Equipment Companies. Dr. Carruth spoke on Insect Control in Food Processing Establishments at the New York State Pest Control Association Conference held in Ithaca yesterday, and Dr. Hucker talked last night at a meeting of the New York City Food Handlers and Processors in that city.

Thursday and Friday of this week, Dr. Cain will attend the second meeting of the Northeastern Soils Research Committee at Rutgers University. Purpose of the meeting will be to coordinate research in soils in this region and discuss proposed regional research projects. Representatives from each of the Experiment Stations in the area and USDA will attend.

JOHN T. LYNCH

Funeral services for John Lynch, member of the Pomology labor force for a number of years, were held yesterday. Mr. Lynch died Saturday morning in Geneva General Hospital after a short illness.

RESEARCH???

We are indebted to Witcombings for the following pertinent advice, author unknown: HOW TO DO RESEARCH

Never having done any research, it should be possible to give objective, unbiased advice. From a brief but intensive study of the subject, research appears to consist largely in repairing leaks in apparatus. In order to do research, you must have ideas. One idea is sufficient. A second idea is apt to contradict the first.

Ideas are easy to get. If you haven't any of your own, there are several prolific sources. (1) Ask one of the salesmen, this is a dependable source of information concerning things that any half-witted research department would have developed years ago. (2) Ask the officers of the company. They know just what should have been done if certain responsible persons had been on the job. (3) Attend a scientific convention and learn the problems others have studied and failed. Then go back to the lab and solve them. Or (4) consult the janitor.

By all means do not look for something original. If you think you have a new idea, read Professor Groszkoff's articles in "Zeitschrift fur so-and-so" published in 1840. You will find he suggested the same thing over a century ago.

However, it is a question whether even one idea is necessary. Merely get some equipment, set it up in a complicated manner, and carry out a few experiments. Readings should be taken at the points where it is considered results will be the most favorable.

These readings should be plotted against other numbers that may be selected at random.

If you get a straight line, you know at once the results could have been predicted.

If you get a curve, the situation is different. Examine the curve carefully for sharp breaks or bends. If you find one, you have made a discovery. These breaks are significant, from them you should develop a theory. Having obtained a curve and concocted a theory, it is befitting that you present the matter before a meeting of some important scientific society. These societies were organized to keep research men from getting the big head. It consists of a group of professional knockers and one booster. You are the booster.

Always prepare a few slides which can be shown at embarrassing moments. After the "banquet" and ever-present business meeting, you will be called upon. First write nine long equations on the blackboard. Memorize the equations beforehand if possible. Write them rapidly. The success of your talk will depend directly on the number of people you can shake off at this point.

Someone will call your attention to the fact that the fifth term of the second equation should have a minus sign which you obligingly change, since it doesn't mean anything anyway.

Dwell at length on the sub-electron, the rigidity of the ether, or the density of petrified rhubarb in Siberia.

When you see a vacant stare, indication of a temporary lapse of intelligence, steal into the eyes of the audience, stop, pause for effect, gather up all your papers, and ask for questions.

In the discussion that follows, you will have no part, but at its close, you will be convinced of three things,

- First: that you were entirely wrong.
- Second: that you did a fine piece of work.
- Third: that it doesn't mean anything.

The moral is: It is much easier to prepare data than to interpret results.
