



STATION NEWS



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Geneva, N. Y.

BACTERIOLOGISTS IN CONVENTION

Several of the Station bacteriologists, headed by Doctor Conn, President of the Society, are attending the annual meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists in Minneapolis this week. Included in the group are Doctor Pederson, Doctor Hofer, and Mr. Emory from the Station and Miss Rosina Felice of the Biological Stain Commission. Doctor Pederson is a member of the Advisory Council and is in charge of the employment service of the Society. Doctor Conn will deliver the Presidential address at a banquet tonight and has chosen as his theme a biographical sketch of his father, the late Professor H. W. Conn, who was one of a group of three scientists who organized the Society of American Bacteriologists just fifty years ago. We had the pleasure of reading Doctor Conn's address and it is an exceedingly interesting account. We were impressed particularly by Professor Conn's opinions on technical writing. He rather prided himself on the fact that he never learned to spell—a not uncommon failing among scientists, we have discovered. Doctor Conn tells about finding entries in his father's diary relating how he "r-o-wee-d" along a quiet country "r-o-d-e", but on another occasion "r-o-aed" a boat on a river. "I like to flatter myself," wrote Professor Conn, "that the reason why I never could make a good speller was that my mind was too logical to grasp such a nonsensical, unreasonable subject as the spelling of English words." But he thought it was most important for a scientist to learn to write well. "And I don't mean good handwriting or good spelling," he wrote in his diary. "You can get people to correct your spelling and to typewrite your manuscript. But you must know how to express ideas clearly." Just before he left Geneva, Doctor Conn had to make a decision as to whether the Society would hold its meeting in the face of the threatened tie up of the railroads. Curiously enough, the bacteriologists were faced with the same dilemma in 1946 when the country was confronted with a similar threat.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

Results of a recent survey indicate that 60 per cent of the employees of the Station are interested in joining the Rochester Hospital Service Group. A group will be formed on a "direct billing" basis, since payroll deductions for this purpose are not possible under State regulations and since the Rochester Hospital Service will not accept new groups on a "group collection" basis. The direct billing plan will result in a saving of \$2 on family contracts and \$1 on single contracts. Members will be billed individually and will make their payments directly to the Rochester Hospital Service. Applications for new members and transfer blanks for those already in the Rochester plan will be distributed within a few days. Those interested should complete the forms and return them as per instructions on or before June 1st. Further information on the benefits of membership may be obtained from the local representative of the Rochester Hospital Service, Mr. E. A. Wick, phone 2127.

MR. CARRUTH

Our sincere sympathy to Larry Carruth on the death of his father, Charles Carruth, at the family home in Worcester, Mass., Saturday morning, following a brief illness.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Doctor Hand was in Washington last week for meetings of the Committee on Milk and of the Food Nutrition Board of the National Research Council.

TOMATO GRADES

Professor Sayre and Doctor Pederson attended a conference of representatives of growers, federal and State marketing agencies, several Farm Bureaus, and processors in the Chamber of Commerce Building in Rochester last Friday to consider revisions of the grades of tomatoes for processing.

TALKED ON SANITATION

Doctor Hucker addressed a conference on food plant sanitation in Rochester last Thursday. The meeting was sponsored by the Association of New York State Cannerys.

THE VISITORS

The Station played host to two groups of Canadian scientists last week, one group from Guelph and Ottawa interested chiefly in the work of the Entomology Division and the other from the Vineland Experiment Station and elsewhere with interests primarily in the fruit and vegetable work. Also, Doctor Y. Ben-Amotz, entomologist with the Shell Oil Company in Tel Aviv, Palestine, spent two days with Doctors Pearce and Chapman on their work with spray oils. May we humbly suggest to members of the Staff who entertain visitors, especially those from foreign parts, that they ask them to sign the register in Jordan Hall.

A FUTURE DATE

Plans are in the making for the annual conference of vocational teachers of agriculture in the high schools of the State to be held at Hobart College July 1 to 3, inclusive. At least one half day of the session has been set aside tentatively for organized tours of the Station.

RECUPERATING

Joyce Stewart, who makes her home with Dr. and Mrs. Glasgow, underwent an emergency appendectomy at the Geneva General Hospital Monday evening. She is reported to be making satisfactory recovery. Joyce was staying with the Cains during the Glasgows' absence from Geneva.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Doctor Harry Young received the prize for highest individual three-game total while other Station bowlers received recognition for their exploits at a banquet of the Church League last Thursday evening, thus officially closing the 1947-48 bowling season. Other sports news: Faustyn Kokoski has won a place on the freshman lacrosse team at Hobart College.

ANONYMOUS AGAIN

We are indebted to "Anonymous" for the following: "It is rumored that the Director is considering the possibility of setting up more nonprofessional assistant positions. Perhaps he saw the motto in the Seed Division--"Too Many Chiefs; Not Enough Indians."

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: FACTS AND FIGGERS :
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They are busy folks in the Seed Division these days. As an indication of how busy, for the year ended Monday, May 10th, Professor Munn and his staff had processed 22,144 service samples as compared with a total of 18,170 samples for the year ended May 10, 1947. In addition, the Seed Laboratory carried on germination and purity analyses of 3,567 official samples of agricultural, vegetable, flower, and tree and shrub seeds offered for sale within the State in 1947 and collected by inspectors of the Department of Agriculture and Markets. Many of these samples were also subjected to control field plantings. Their's is a "front line" defense highly valued by New York farmers, seed growers, and seed dealers.

