

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N.Y.

AT A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Station Club last Monday plans for a farewell "party" for Dr. and Mrs. Thatcher were discussed. It was agreed that a special committee should be appointed to handle the affair, and this committee will probably be named in the near future. The only definite action taken by the Executive Committee was to set the date for August 30 as being the most convenient time for Dr. Thatcher. Further details will be announced as they are perfected.

A REGULAR feature of the Annual Report of the Station are the letters of transmittal from the Dean of the College of Agriculture to the President of Cornell University and from the President to the Governor of the State and to the Commissioner of Education who has supervision of the College. The letters for the current report have just been received from President Farrand and Dean Mann and contain several statements of more than passing interest to the Station Staff. In his letter to the Governor and to Commissioner Graves, President Farrand says, in part, "The report is a clear exposition of the continued significance of the Station for the agriculture of the State and of the Nation. I commend it to those in authority and to the farmers of New York. May I invite your personal consideration of the needs of the Station as set forth by Director Thatcher, and urge such legislative action as is required for their relief. The Station has fully justified its right to claim the facilities which its work demands, and which will enable it more effectively to discharge its responsibilities and serve the expanding requirements of the farmers of this State."

DEAN MANN, in his letter to President Farrand says, in part, The Director has stated clearly and forcefully the handicap under which the Station operates by reason of inadequate housing facilities. The necessity that the State shall make immediate provision for the erection of the Horticultural Research Laboratory cannot be urged too insistently. The scientific staff labors under restrictions which limit its fullest usefulness, with consequent loss to the State and discouragement to the workers. The services of the Station add greatly to the wealth of the State every year; the investments in its work are among the most productive investments which the State makes. It is most unfortunate that its work continues to be hampered for want of what must be considered a relatively inexpensive building. I desire to call especial attention to the Director's recommendation that early appropriation be made for this structure, and urge its favorable consideration by the Governor and the Legislature."

THE LIBRARY has just received a four-volume report on the second Arctic Expedition of the "Fram". The work is partly in English and partly in German and is beautifully illustrated. It comes to the Library as an exchange.

MR. DANIEL, entomologist at the Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia, made a brief call at the Station the first of the week. He reports that Mr. Gladwin is making good progress toward recovery of his usual good health and hopes soon to take up his regular duties.

PROF. F. B. MORRISON, head of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Assistant Director of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, was a visitor at the Station last Saturday. Prof. Morrison was on his way to Connecticut and Massachusetts where he is to address various groups of farmers this week.

MR. L. C. ANDERSON, Mr. Tukey's successor as horticulturist in the Hudson Valley Fruit Investigations, was initiated into Rotary at Hudson last week.

MR. SHEAR, plant pathologist, for the Hudson Valley Fruit Investigations, spent most of last week at the Station.

MR. A. H. ROBERTSON, formerly assistant bacteriologist here and now with the Vermont Station, is attending summer school at Cornell. Mr. Robertson has about completed the requirements for his doctor's degree, and this Station is publishing jointly with the Vermont Station a treatise on heat-resistant microorganisms which will comprise his thesis.

MR. E. C. JOHNSON, general manager of the DeLaval Company, visited the Dairy Department on Tuesday.

MR. AND MRS. Gordin, who have been spending the past few weeks with their daughter, Mrs. Sayre, left this morning for Washington and other points on their return to their home in Champaign, Illinois.

MISS SPERRY is leaving tomorrow for her vacation, which will be spent in Erie and Cleveland followed by a motor trip through Pennsylvania.

AMONG the outstanding farm papers that come to the Library is the PENNSYLVANIA STOCKMAN AND FARMER edited by E. S. Bayard. The STOCKMAN AND FARMER has always been a vigorous advocate of agricultural research, hence we were attracted by an editorial in a recent number headed "More Research". Perusal of the item at once revealed that the editor was in a facetious mood, but his "conclusions" are so illuminating that we pass on the editorial in full.

"More Research"

"The readers of this page well know the editor's deep interest in research, which has led him to go long distances to investigate piscatorial, avian and equine problems, but not until recently has he been able to devote any attention to canine questions. The opportunity came the other day at Toledo, Ohio. A research expedition was led to the greyhound races, which are carried on with much ceremony and considerable speculation at a quarter-mile course constructed especially for such racing. The dogs, eight in each race, are cooped up at the starting point. A synthetic rabbit runs on a "third rail" around the track. The dogs are released simultaneously by a spring door and with the rabbit in the lead the race is run. The complete results of this research are not ready for publication at this writing but the investigator concludes; That some dogs are faster than others; that electricity is faster than greyhounds as proved by the regular escape of the synthetic hare propelled by electric current; and that the wrong dog sometimes wins, as shown by the countenances of those who have made "a voluntary contribution" to the success of some other dog and have nothing but a scrap of paper to show for it. The careful student of research literature will observe that these conclusions are stated without any of the exceptions, qualifications, conditions or reservations which so often clutter up the conclusions of other investigators. The editor is particularly proud of this, and with due attempt at modesty calls special attention of other scientists to the beauty of clean-cut conclusions."