

THE STATION NEWS

Vol. II, No. 6.

February 6, 1924.

Geneva, N.Y.

THE FEBRUARY STAFF meeting was marked by a lively discussion of the proposed Code of Ethics for experiment station workers. The matter was put before the staff in the form of two propositions, first, whether the staff favored the codification of the ethics of experiment station workers by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges; and second, whether the proposed Code was satisfactory. A motion favoring the first proposition led to a free discussion of the advantages and disadvantages to research workers of any fixed standard such as that proposed. When the question was put to a vote it was adopted without dissent.

Each section of the proposed Code was then considered separately and, in some instances, certain changes in the phraseology were adopted. During the discussion two or three additional ideas were developed which it was thought should be included in a code of this sort, but due to the late hour these matters were held over for a later meeting of the staff when they can be considered in more detail.

Mr. Stewart spoke for a few minutes on the conference on crown gall held at Cincinnati at the time of the A. A. A. S. meetings. He told briefly of the nature and causes of crown gall and reviewed the action taken by the conference on inspection for crown gall.

DR. THATCHER announced at the Staff meeting that arrangements had been made with Hobart, whereby honor students from that institution may be assigned to research work in the Station laboratories. The facilities of the College are also available now to members of the Staff who may care to make use of them.

DR. E. P. DEATRICH, chief of the soil division at the West Virginia Experiment Station, was a visitor at the Station last Saturday.

THE COMPTROLLER has approved a lease whereby the Station acquires the use of one of the buildings at Vassar College for laboratory purposes in connection with the insect and plant disease work in the Hudson River Valley. What chance has "Doc" Lathrop now ?

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL FARMER'S WEEK will be held at the College at Ithaca next week, February 11 to 16. The following members of the Station Staff are scheduled to take part: Dr. Breed, on Should the Farmer be Interested in Agricultural Bacteriology; Mr. Dahlberg, Some Observations from Experimental Work of Special Interest to Farmers; Dr. Hedrick, The Best Varieties of Fruit for New York State; Mr. Parrott, Results of Experiments with Codling Moth, the Pear Psylla, and Other Important Fruit Pests; and Mr. Tukey, The Pear, Its Culture and Varieties.

MR. GLADWIN of the Vineyard Laboratory at Fredonia stopped in at the Station Monday to confer on a forthcoming bulletin on some of his grape work. Mr. Gladwin has several engagements to address farmer gatherings in this and neighboring states within the next few weeks.

A REPORT on the Station News Service made at the Staff meeting yesterday showed that the 162 stories sent out to newspapers and farm papers during 1923 were used 4,521 times, and that the papers carrying these items had a total circulation of over 73,000,000. The report was based on returns from two clipping bureaus, but correspondence and a check-up on the use of the news material in the press has shown that the clipping bureaus find only about one-half of the items used.

THE NEWS has been asked to publish the following list of periodicals which have been added during the past year to those received by the Station Library:

Technical

Biochemical Journal
Comptes rendus ... Soc. de Biol.
Comptes rendus .. de l'Acad. Sci.
Journal of Infectious Diseases
Zeit. f. indukt. Abstammungs. u. Vererbungslehre

Kolloid Zeitschrift
Kolloid Beihefte
Tropical Disease Bulletin
Zeit. f. tech. Biologie

Non Technical

Breeder's Gazette
Capper's Farmer
Dairy Record
Dairy World
Iowa Farmer
Weekly Kansas City Star

National Stockman
New England Farms
New England Homestead
Publisher's Weekly
Queensland Agr. Journal
Successful Farming

CAN THIS be said of the Geneva Station ? It is certainly worth thinking about.

We think that some of the experiment stations might easily improve the quality of their correspondence - that is, if they desire to gain a popular following. Good letter writers are like poets and orators - born, not made. The wisest men are seldom good letter writers. They know too much and are so much interested in knowing more that they do not like to stop and give what seems to them primer talk. We judge this from the complaints often made by our readers. Sometimes they send us the letters they receive from the stations. These are often perfunctory and sometimes very curt. A good letter writer must understand human nature and have the ability to give facts in common language. We should think that an expert in this line, with power to express himself in his own way, could develop a great following for the station and do untold good. Our experience is that private correspondence, skillfully conducted, is in the long run more effective than any so-called publicity.-
Editorial, Rural New-Yorker, February 2, 1924.

Without doubt, the numerous opportunities for personal contact thru letters afforded by the many inquiries received at this Station can do more to enhance the prestige of the institution than all the newspaper stories and bulletins combined.

ARTHUR CLARK has been confined to his home for the past few days with a severe throat infection. The NEWS is glad to learn that he is on the road to recovery.

:-----:
: GEORGE W. CHURCHILL :
: AGRICULTURIST :
:-----*

"Mr. G. W. Churchill was engaged as a farmer last winter and has performed his duties faithfully and intelligently, relieving the Director of all cares as to the detail work of his department," thus reads the Director's report for the year 1884. Mr. Churchill still has in his possession the letter from Dr. Sturtevant notifying him of his appointment and outlining his duties. Mr. Churchill also has some of the quill pens used by Dr. Sturtevant in all of his correspondence.

Mr. Churchill asserts that there is nothing to say about his career at the Station as he has found the direction of the farm operations rather uneventful. Occasionally, tho, he lets fall a remark that leads to reminiscences of early days, and those who were fortunate enough to attend the staff meeting where Mr. Churchill recounted some of the early history of the Station had a treat indeed.

The lay-out of the farm, the farm buildings, the equipment, etc., have all undergone radical changes during his time, Mr. Churchill says. The original farm has almost doubled in size in that time with the addition of the Crittenden tract and the property that is now leased by the Station. The present barns, with the exception of the old "stone barn", replace the three old barns that were burned in 1902. There has been much progress in the development of farm machinery during these years, too, Even the old mare had to give way finally to the ubiquitous Ford.

Mr. Churchill is the man to see if you want anything done about the place and also, if anything goes wrong you can blame it on him. That is the only way he gets any excitement out of his job, he says. For instance, these wet potatoes we have this winter are probably Mr. Churchill's fault, and he certainly put a wretched lot of ice in the ice house last winter. It does seem that after 40 years he would do something to keep the snow out of the ice pond and to insure unfailing quality in the potato crop. Only one with Mr. Churchill's keen sense of humor and unfailing good nature could stand the strain that long.

And now here is a secret, if you want to win Mr. Churchill's favor just ask him about that grandson of his and rest assured that you are off to a good start.

DR. GLASGOW AND MR. MACLEOD report a successful meeting at Stanley last week where they addressed about 75 members of the local Grange. Dr. Glasgow spoke on cabbage maggot control and Mr. MacLeod on cabbage aphid. Both talks were illustrated with lantern slides.

THIS ITEM was handed to the NEWS by Mr. Tukey after the editorial in the Rural New-Yorker had already gone in. It is an extract from a letter to Mr. Tukey from Mr. Collingwood, Editor of the Rural New Yorker, and refers directly to correspondence from this Station, altho no names were mentioned.

"I have had some rather bitter complaint about the letters which are sent out from the Station. People say they have got nothing but a curt line or two without any information whatever. They resent such treatment and treasure it up against the Station."

MRS. WALTER L. KULP is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Casler. Mr. Kulp, formerly assistant chemist at the Station, is now an instructor in Yale.