

Hamilton P.

A U R O R A S P O R E A L I S

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A Journal

Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations, and the respirations of those who have drunk from the foaming fount in the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of Minnesota and now spout forth in divers ways.

"Let the fount foam and never run dry,
Let the spout squirt and never lose power!"

Published by the Editorial Committee, aided and abetted by many others.

The Committee: C. C. Allison
J. G. Leach
Helen Hart, Chairman

OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

For several weeks now, winter has been flirting with spring. Which recalls to mind the fact that soon field plots will begin to look like Lilliputian forests; theses will come in, go out again, then come in again; kittenball will be resumed; the flowers will bloom; and a new season of activity will be well under way. Before we go on any more field trips, where things will be learned and unlearned with kaleidoscopic rapidity, there is one little job that must be done. The COLYUM must be written. And so, for better or for worse! The Muse seems to have a frown on her face today. And so, it probably will be worse.

ABBIE L. MERRITT, who once presided with grace and efficiency over the external and internal affairs of Dean Freeman's office, now performs the same function in the office of the Dean of Men at Carleton College. Miss Merritt reports that, while she enjoys her work at Carleton very much, there are times when she has a homesick yearning for the old Doddering Dower and all that goes with it.

HERMAN GEORGE STARR becomes skipper of a curling rink. Dr. Starr, who is still at the University of Wyoming, is teaching plant pathology this quarter, will soon be teaching plant breeding, is engaged in making investigations of alfalfa wilt, seed disinfection for potatoes, bunt of wheat, seed disinfection for vegetables, bean blight, dry rot of potatoes, and chlorosis of deciduous trees. In addition to these projects he has several other activities, including the heaving of a 40-lb. stone along the ice at a target about 42 yards distant. In addition, the Starrs have acquired them a house and garage. It should be named the Observatory. Starr must get lonesome from lack of activity.

RALPH LINDGREN is still tripping in and out of Washington, engaged in manifold activities in connection with the saving of forests for future generations. In addition, he has recently examined a couple of hundred slides and now has the material just about ready for his thesis. If the fates are propitious and the symbolic liver is lobed right, he may complete the thesis in time to obtain his degree in June. He sends his regards to the Gang.

CHUCK WISMER more dizzy than usual. According to Wismer's own statement, he was dizzier than usual when he first put out to sea from New York City, enroute to Monrovia. He was 18 days on the way, and before reaching Monrovia he paid a visit to Dakar and Freetown, where he says he got a great bang, being as how these were the first foreign cities he had seen. Lee Hines met him at Monrovia, took him off the boat and he has now consorted for some time with Hines, MacIndoe, and Hafstad. He has gone to work and writes like a rubber expert. So far, he says, he has enjoyed it a great deal, the weather not being as bad as it was painted. He thinks Liberia is a nice little country, particularly since a bush cow recently picked up a native, carried him about 50 yards, dropped him, then picked him up and brot him back to the starting place. The native acquired a gash in one leg and a few bruises on the roundtrip. Wismer himself escaped injury, but two deer did not. According to Wismer's story, he got TWO deer with THREE shots. This sounds more plausible than the claim that some people make that they got three deer with two shots. Wismer sends best wishes and regards to everyone. And everyone reciprocates, hoping that Wismer and his compatriots will continue to think that Liberia is a NICE LITTLE COUNTRY.

JIMMY WALTER, Ph. D., has sent his thesis in final form, altho he says that he is sure there are many corrections yet to be made. Now where did he get such an idea as that? During the next month, according to Jimmie, the Dutch Elm Disease Laboratory will be moved to more suitable quarters. Jimmie sends his regards to "all the gang."

DISTANCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER. - This would seem to be the burden of some scriptural remarks of Dr. Eric Frenchy SHARVELLE, who opines that the Minnesota and Canadian winters are pleasanter than those in Merrie England. Maybe so, but, when the wind starts getting ugly and howling because it is 30 below zero, and the ice cap does not start to recede until the flowers are sweetly blooming elsewhere, even the fur-bearing animals of these northern climes begin to wonder whether fortune has smiled so benignly on this north country as it has on more tropic lands. Frenchy sends his salaams and cheerios to those whom he left behind.

Dr. K. ZALESKI, who sojourned for a time in Phytobrickhaus, communicates the information that on October 10 he passed well his Docents examinations and is waiting for the approval of the Ministry to obtain the title of Docent. Congratulations, Dr. Zaleski! May the Ministry act promptly!

BULKY COMMUNICATION FROM DR. TYLER. - Dr. Leon J. Tyler, now at Yonkers, N. Y., recently sent one of the lengthiest communications we have received for some time - - his report on his white pine blister rust observations in Minnesota last summer. Tyler is still enjoying himself at Yonkers, and sends his regards to Phytobrickhaus tremuloides.

Well, Old Timers, maybe this ain't so much, but it is all there is!

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* The readers of Aurora will be grieved to learn of the death of *
 * Vincent Peterson, plant pathologist in the Division of Insect Control*
 * and Nursery Inspection. Vincent died February 14 at St. Barnabas *
 * Hospital after a short illness. Surviving him are his wife, Verna, *
 * and their three year old daughter Vee. He was 32 years of age. *
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* In 1925 Vincent came to the University from Balfour, North Dak. *
 * Since graduation in 1929 he had been connected with the Nursery *
 * Inspection Office and in this work had made many friends among the *
 * nurserymen and farmers of the state. *
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Dear Editor:

Fellow members of the ancient and hon. order of Q. C. F. inform me that you have been a'roarin for Aurora. It gives me both pain and pleasure to inform you that I ain't got nuthin to contrib. and anyway Miss Aurora won't missit anyhow.

Yours till when



SOIL EROSION SERVICE CONFERENCE

The Soil Erosion Service is engaged in establishing two demonstrating areas in the Root River Valley in Houston and Fillmore counties. Mr. Davis, regional director of the Soil Erosion Service, is endeavoring to cooperate with the Experiment Station in solving such problems that may well be studied to mutual advantage. For instance, on February 14 and 15 Mr. Davis brought his 20 or more assistants to University Farm and spent 1 to 2 hours with the different divisions. In the Tottering Tower they met in the Seminar Room where Prof. Stakman discussed seed treatment and plant disease control. The group appeared to be very much interested in plant disease control. This division is furnishing them with pamphlets and riker mounts of some of the important diseases.

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CENTRAL AND BRANCH STATIONS CONFERENCE

The Annual Central and Branch Station Conference was held at University Farm February 11 and 12, 1935. The first day session was held in the Biochemistry Seminar Room and dealt primarily with pasture researches. Extensive plans for future investigations were outlined.

February 12 (Darwin's, Lincoln's and Dean Freeman's birthday) was devoted chiefly to agronomy crops. As in previous years summarized data (voluminous) prepared by project leaders were distributed to the members present. The discussions were unusually brief. Dr. Stakman emphasized the need for cereal treatment for smuts, since much seed from various sources will be shipped into areas of seed shortage. This division was represented by Bamberg, Christensen, Moore, Shumway, and Stakman.

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SIGMA XI LECTURES

Minnesota chapter of Sigma Xi sponsored four lectures on "Our Natural Heritage in Relation to Public Welfare". The lectures were held on four consecutive Friday evenings in Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium. The following subjects were presented.

Friday, January 25: The relation of human activities to depletion of our water resources. Professor George A. Thiel.

Friday, February 1: Forests and human welfare. Professor Henry Schmitz.

Friday, February 8: The soils. Professor Frederick J. Alway

Friday, February 15: People as a factor in our natural heritage. Professor Richard E. Scammon.

VISITORS

During the early part of January, Francis Haglund, M. S., plant pathology, 1934, spent a few minutes with the mouldy gang. Miss Haglund is now teaching High School at Pillager, Minnesota.

Professor A. H. Reginald Buller of the University of Winnipeg made a short visit in our "Lab" February 17.

H. N. Putnam, Assoc. Plant Pathologist, Div. Plant Disease Control, and Basil Wales, Acting Regional Forester, Milwaukee, Wis., and Ernest Dahl, Blister Rust Control, conferred with E. C. Stakman on white pine blister rust control.

W. L. Popham, Senior Pathologist, Washington, D. C. spent several days here discussing barberry "activities" with Drs. Stakman and Melander, and Donald Fletcher.

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SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Happy days are here again! Pessimism has been left behind - Davies one of our Canadian representatives, a loyal subject of King George, tried to convince the U. Registrar that he was now residing in Minnesota and should therefore not be required to pay non-residence fees - Optimism with a capital O.

The first sign of spring - Dr. Louise Dodsall has placed her order for a nice shiney green Ford V8 to be delivered on the first day of April. Being the proud owner of a chevrolet six, yo keyhole artist thinks the green car will harmonize nicely with the new owner. We think also that April 1 is a very appropriate day for delivery.

"When a man bites a dog - that's news." When a professor slaps a stenographer for bedeviling him - that's a headliner. Thus our serious minded shiek, Dr. Eide makes the front page of Signs and Symptoms.

Scotty Tervet saw Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse and said, "There ain't no such animal". He then carefully planted about 150 pots with flax seed and carefully covered the pots with sheets of glass "to keep out the micc". Next morning he found that the mice had devoured the seed in about half the pots - now he is ready to believe anything.

Hail the conquering hero comes! We noticed a little extra spring in the step of Dr. (4 aces) Melander on his return from Crookston. We wondered why until we learned how he had cleaned up all the old time poker sharks at the Red River Valley Crop show.

A late flash over grape vine telegraph says Dr. Art Verrall is about to become a benedict. - Knowing Verrall as we do, we won't believe it until we see the bride!

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PERSONAL AND PERSONNEL

Exodus

The first to leave was Richard Stafford who came from Colorado this fall. He took a job in the Land Acquisition Department out of Duluth. Then to Texas A. and M., College Station, Texas, went M. F. Kernkamp, the newest of newcomers - having graduated this year from this University. He has a research fellowship on sulfur toxicity under Drs. Taubenhaus and Ezekiel. Next to go was Thomas Graham (M. S., 1933) to the Dutch Elm Disease Laboratory, Morristown, N. J. on a 6-month appointment. He and Art Verrall will work out a way to kill stumps of infected trees.

Comment

Chris opines that if enough star kittenball players leave, Atkinson may yet make the team.

Rumors

That Art Verrall will soon be married.

Itinerary

Something of a record was hung up by Dr. Stakman when he spoke.

- Feb. 4. Wisconsin Farmers and Homemaker's short course. "The value of agricultural education and research"
- Feb. 5. Wisconsin Phytopath. Seminar "The nature of variation in smut fungi".
- Feb. 25. College Women's Club, Minneapolis, "Science in the Service of mankind".
- Feb. 28. Professional Men's Club of St. Paul on "Basic Problems in Agricultural Adjustment".
- Also - Faribault Forum (600 attended) "Problems of Human Subsistence"
- March 4 Radio Address. "Minnesota's never-ending battle against plant diseases".

Society

Tea was held for Tommy Graham - February 16. Principal speakers were J. J. Christensen, J. G. Leach, Matt Moore, and Dr. Stakman, who, in the words of the master of ceremonies made the "customary remarks".

Coffee at Chris's sent Dick Stafford on his way. We've had no word from him since. Are you sure it was coffee, Chris?

Ale toasts were drunk at Kernkamp's "Toodle-oo" ceremony. "Architecture and Style" was the topic of the official symposium and unofficial beer party.

Headlines in the Minneapolis Tribune -

DR. STAKMAN TO SPEAK
AT COLLEGE WOMENS CLUB

President of Bryn Mawr also
on Monday Program of Group

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

University

Basketball

In the second half of the big ten basketball race, Minnesota has fared rather badly, having won from Iowa, Michigan, and Chicago, while losing to Wisconsin, Indiana, and twice to Illinois. The last game is to be played March 9 with Indiana. Wisconsin is leading the league with Minnesota in sixth place with five wins and six defeats. Indiana is favored to take the final game. A post-season game is to be played between varsity and freshman teams in which the tipoff will be eliminated, all plays starting from out of bounds. This is in line with the current agitation to amend basketball rules to eliminate the tipoff play.

Hockey

For the first time in five years Minnesota does not have the big-ten hockey championship. Although the team came back strongly to win two series from Michigan Tech. and one from Wisconsin University, they lost in the playoff with the University of Michigan by tying one and losing one. This gave Michigan its only championship of the year to date. Next year the team will have to be almost entirely rebuilt, as nearly all the key men are seniors.

Track

The University track team is continuing to lose to all comers. Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin have administered the most thorough defeats. The only consistent outstanding performer on the team has been Slocum who is undefeated in the two mile. The indications are for one of the poorest seasons in years.

Baseball

Baseball practice has been called in the field house. A twelve game schedule has been arranged, and with a number of letter men returning and good sophomore material, a better season is predicted. An encouraging factor is the number of experienced pitchers who are turning out for practice.

Minor sports

The rifle team is undefeated as yet and has an excellent chance to take big ten honors.

The swimming team is having an average season, having lost only to Iowa U. in conference meets.

The wrestling team has about broken even on matches this year. Sickness and injury have hampered the team somewhat.

The gym team in spite of ineligibility and injuries has had a fairly good season having won all but one meet. The one defeat was at the hands of Illinois in a triangular meet with Wisconsin, Minnesota taking second place.

An attempt is being made to reestablish boxing as a big ten sport. No decision has been made as yet, but a great deal of favorable sentiment has been aroused. However, a number of big ten officials are not so favorably inclined.

BOOKSHELF

Leach, J. G., L. W. Orr, and Clyde Christensen. The interrelationships of bark beetles and blue-staining fungi in felled Norway pine timber. Jour. Agr. Res. 49: 315-342. 1934.

LeClerg, E. L. Parasitism of Rhizoctonia solani on sugar beet. Jour. Agr. Res. 49: 407-431. 1934.

Stakman, E. C. Epidemiology of cereal rusts. Proc. Fifth Pacific Science Congress. pp. 3177-3184. 1934.

Here's "THANK YOU" for contributions from Old Timers:

- Aamodt, O. S. ^{/1} The relation between physiologic forms of phytopathogenic fungi and the problem of breeding for resistance to disease. Proc. Fifth Pacific Science Congress. pp. 2615-2625. 1934.
- _____ Breeding cereal varieties for northern regions. Ibid. pp. 1729-1739.
- _____ Control of wild oats. Univ. Alta. Ext. Leaflet 14 (2nd. ed.) Jan.
- _____ Potato improvement and new varieties for Alberta. Univ. Alta. Col. Agr. Cir. 16. Jan.
- _____, L. P. V. Johnson, and J. M. Manson. Natural and artificial hybridization of Avena sativa with A. fatua and its relation to the origin of fatuoids. Canad. Jour. Res. 11: 701-727. 1934.
- _____, and A. W. Platt. Resistance of wild oats and some common cereal varieties to freezing temperatures. Scien. Agr. 14: 645-650. 1934.
- _____ and J. H. Torrie. The relation between awns and yield in spring wheat. Canad. Jour. Res. 11: 207-212. 1934.
- _____ A simple method for determining the relative weight per bushel of the grain from individual wheat plants. Can. Jour. Res. 11: 589-593. 1934.

/1 Altho Dr. Olaf can produce big results with a little bustle, it almost seems that the hard work represented by these reprints and bulletins must have been accompanied by a slight rustle of the bustle. Furthermore, we envy not only the method of accomplishment, but the quality and quantity.

- Ezekiel, W. N. (with J. J. Taubenhaus). The quality of lint and seed from cotton plants with *Phymatotrichum* root rot. *Phytopath.* 25: 105-113.
- Hanna, W. F. The physiology of the fungi causing bunt of wheat. *Proc. Fifth Pacific Science Congress.* Pp. 3195-3204. 1934.
- Schaal, L. A. Relation of the potato blea beetle to common scab infection of potatoes. *Jour. Agr. Res.* 49: 251-258. 1934

We also have abstracts of the following articles published by Dr. G. Verplancke, from whom Aurora has not heard for a long, long time:

- Verplancke, G. Étude comparative de pommes de terre d'origines diverses III. Résultats des expériences faites en 1933. *Bul. Inst. Agron. et des Stat. de Recherches de Gembloux* 3: 52-91. 1934.
- Étude des propriétés des virus causant les maladies de dégénérescence de la betterave. IV. Reactions immunologiques du virus de la mosaïque de la betterave. *Sucrierie Belge.* 54: 162-168. 1935.

LITERATURE SEMINARS

January 24. Various scholars reviewed literature on bottom rot of lettuce, ethylene treatments, and fluorescent bacteria. Discussion of the drought in Canada, shelter belts, and pasture grass concluded the serious part of the evening. Refreshments were served in honor, and at the expense of, Syed, who had a birthday last June 10. The subject of his address (according to Harrar, the toast master) was "What I learned about beer drinking in Minnesota, or burping back to Bombay." The chairman then called upon L. Ling to point out China and Japan on the map, tell what their differences are and what China was going to do about it.

February 7. Drs. Stakman and Leach had a big argument about architecture. In fact, it lasted most of the next day, and we do not know if it is settled yet. The question seemed to be whether the medieval architects were moved by practical considerations or artistic impulses. Dr. Stakman gave a practical demonstration of the value of arguments by looking up facts to back his views. He was on the artistic side.

The Seminar adjourned at a reasonable hour and reassembled at a well known spot on University avenue where toasts were drunk to Kernkamp, departing for Texas. Mose Levine was the life of the party, which was a decided success, except for Christy's hangover. The sissy!

February 21. Another argument between Drs. Christensen and Stakman concerning splitting up physiologic forms. Dr. Stakman gave a long explanatory lecture on the fundamental concepts, etc. Chris: "Sure, that's just what I said."

REGULAR SEMINARS

January 29. C. Pan (major agronomy) presented an excellent paper, from which we soon learned the sad tale of a co-ed who went on a picnic with her boy friend and died soon after. It transpired that she had eaten an apple with spray residue on it. We also heard that three Frenchmen once died from drinking

beer which had arsenic in it. Stak, with a note of alarm: "There certainly isn't anything in the normal process of beer-making which would account for arsenical poison, is there?" This paper, on "Spray residues and their removal" was an example of thoroughness. Pan even analyzed statistically some of the data in the papers he read. Which seems to us lazier, non-mathematical souls to be carrying things to extremes.

February 5. "Overwintering and dissemination of the fire blight pathogen" by T. W. Graham. Opinions concerning the importance of rain in dissemination were questioned by Mr. Miley, formerly of Wisconsin, now with the Lake States Forestry Station.

February 12. Birthday of the Great Emancipator. No Seminar was held, much to the delight of certain people who seem to have trouble in preparing their papers on time.

February 19. "Potato certification" by Harold Mattson.

February 26. "Damping off problems of the truck gardeners and florists" by M. W. Cormack. This seminar was notable for the fact that Cormack was the first person in years to prepare charts which were legible. The reason: Matt Moore finally bought some white wrapping paper to put them on.

Public Service

The Big Chief has been in great demand for numerous speaking engagements of late. He spoke at the Wisconsin Farmers and Homemakers Week during the week of February 4. He spoke at the Faribault Forum to a large audience on "Problems of Human Subsistence" and again at Robbinsdale on the same subject. He also delivered a radio address on plant disease problems during the University Hour. (To say nothing of the other requests he was unable to fulfill)

Dr. Helen Hart has been actively engaged in stimulating members of the Aurora staff for the past few days.

L. W. Melander is preparing for a big barberry season this year. If the appropriation goes thru Congress, he hopes to have a large crew in the field. He is holding a series of instructional meetings for would-be barbarians. Earl Hansing has been assisting in giving lectures to the new men.

Ray Rose and Clyde Allison are as busy as Dean Freeman's cat these days in an endeavor to get the farmers to treat their seed grains. They report that in general farmers are very favorable toward seed treatment.

A. G. Tolaas has been holding a number of potato certification meetings throughout the state, leaving his able secretary, Miss Dorothy Harmala, to run the potato office and look after the interests of Q. C. F.