

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

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

## Buller Memorial Seminar

The Seminar on Thursday evening, July 6, was devoted to a discussion of the life and works of Dr. A. H. Reginald Buller. Only a few hours before, many of the seminar members had attended funeral services for Dr. Buller held in Lakewood Chapel, Minneapolis. He died in Winnipeg on July 3. Many of the Old Timers knew Dr. Buller well. Few of them, perhaps, who had not worked directly with him, knew him better than Dr. Stakman. The Chief summarized for us the scientific education of Dr. Buller - how he flunked his first college entrance exam., and was forever proud of it, his work with Dr. Pfeffer, and later with Dr. Robert Hartig at München, and what Dr. Buller got from these early giants that later was to help make him a giant in his own right.

From Hartig Dr. Buller got not only a part of his genius for directness, simplicity, detail and follow-through in his scientific work, but also a silver combination cigar cutter-puncher-and hollow-outer of which only he knew the secret, since even Dr. Stakman, for all his mechanical bent, admitted that he never could work it. Also Dr. Buller was proud of his ability at billiards, and once rapped Dr. Bisby's knuckles with the cue because Bisby did not take his hand off the table quickly enough. (We sort of suspect it was Stak's knuckles that got rapped, but then it was Stak's story.) Also Dr. Buller was one of those to whom the experiment then in progress was the most important thing in life, and nothing was allowed to interrupt it, which perhaps helps to explain at least one part of his genius. When he wanted to find out just how spores were shot off from sterigmata, he figured out how to do it, then stayed there and watched the spores being shot off, if it took all night, or several nights. He recorded in detail what he had seen, thought it over, figured out how he wanted to write it, and then wrote it that way, simply, directly, lucidly. It sounds easy. For Dr. Buller it may have been.

Chris discussed Dr. Buller's 6 volumes on Researches on Fungi. To many of us now here and to many of you Old Timers these books are a mine of information, and a continual source of pleasure and inspiration, and sometimes even of entertainment. No student of plant pathology or mycology can realize how much there is of heaven and earth in the toadstools and lowly molds until he has read and reread and thought about the material presented in these books--as Chris pointed out.

The discussion led again to some of Dr. Buller's salient characteristics -- his infinite capacity for detail, where this meant a closer approach to perfection, his untiring checking and rechecking of phenomena and statement, his constant looking for the significant meanings beyond the observed fact, his rigid insistence upon factual, experimental proof both from himself and from others.

Dr. Hart discussed his Essays on Wheat, a book which came almost as a surprise to some of the members, who had known Dr. Buller almost only as a mycologist. These Essays were written 25 years ago, principally to bring out the vital role of wheat in Canadian and United States agriculture and to emphasize the part played by scientists, even pure scientists, in the development of superior varieties. It was, and is, perhaps the best story of wheat ever written for and in this continent. It is one more tribute to Dr. Buller's immense breadth of interest, his capacity for accurate detail, his ability to grasp the general significance of things and to present his conclusions with convincing clarity and with a human interest twist.

Also reviewed were Dr. Buller's papers on forest pathology, his memorable paper on the Fungus Lore of the Greeks and Romans, which he gleaned from ancient books,

and his descriptions of Micheli's experiments, which proved for the first time that fungi were living, growing plants. One of Dr. Buller's articles of faith was that no man was well grounded in his science until he was familiar with the detail and the significance of the work done by those before him, an article of faith which he obviously followed.

There was no feeling at this seminar that we were doing honor to Dr. Buller, but rather that we were trying to grasp and bring out some of the characteristics of a man who had for many years of his three score and ten been in a very real sense a guiding force in the development of mycology, plant pathology, and in the larger field of biology, who had searched out many of the small but significant secrets of nature, and who had helped to clarify some of the complex relationships between living things and show how even a Pilobolus fits into the general scheme of the universe.

Dr. Buller as an individual endowed with a tremendous vitality and an enquiring mind will remain a living force in biological science for generations to come.

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#### IN THE SERVICES

Corporal David Adams from somewhere in Italy writes of a sunny spring and plenty of fruits, especially lemons and oranges. He hopes to visit some of the schools and gardens before leaving.

T/5 Donald deZeeuw says that he is learning a few things as a surgical technician which may be of value when he gets back to being a phytopathologist. His "hitch" in Indianapolis is agreeable to him in spite of hospital ward duty.

Capt. Kernkamp's kittenball team in North Africa is his pride and joy in spite of their losing six out of six league games. He says, "Guess the 'old man' will have to go out and show 'em how.... Competition is awfully tough." More recent news includes the fact that Kernkamp and his Company crossed the Mediterranean early in June and are now busy guarding railroads and trains in Italy. Kern's agricultural eye is still open, and he reports wheat+trees+grapes in the same plot.

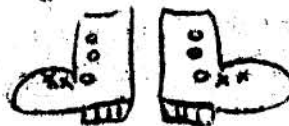
Lieut. Thomas Laskaris (1st Lieut. since December) arrived in New Guinea in January and proceeded to set up hospital. On a diet of lamb and coconuts "Klebs" threatens to make a mycological collection.

Conrad Olson, B.M. 3/c, Coast Guard, took time out one day to let us know that he was still looking for subs and was in good health.

Lieut. John Rowell still has time to fish in spite of his military duties. He says, "Alice has caught the biggest salmon so far".

Pvt. B. Shema, who is now in "snake-and insect-infested Louisiana" is quite clear as to where he will spend his next furlough. We agree that Minnesota is cooler.

W. D. Thomas, most recent from the "Brickhaus" to enter the armed forces, is stationed at Great Lakes for boot training. He writes, "Somehow I landed an easy berth, easy on the feet, as company clerk. Then too I have been put on the Great Lakes swimming team, so it looks as though I should be in good shape whenever I get out of here."





Capt. Thornberry, once more stationed at Champaign, Illinois, went out one Saturday to his old stamping grounds to examine strawberry experiments that he started in pre-war days. His personnel work keeps him busy, he says.

Lieut. John Vaughn is now back with the American Forces on special duty after a secluded life with the Italian peasantry, according to his father, who visited us recently. We are mighty glad to have this good news at last.

Lieut. Chet Wismer writes from England, "I'm looking forward to the day when I can return and tell you of some of my travels. April in England is the pass-word, the sun is warm, the grass is green, and one sees flowers, etc., etc.

Tech. Sgt. Ted Wright is still having trouble studying Hindustani and working a coolie crew. "Try digging a ditch or building a bamboo building with sign language and you'll find it easier to sit up nights studying their lingo." Ted spends part of his time now caring for a garden, which includes everything from orchids to bananas. He finds mosquito dope useful to control chewing insects and tobacco juice for the suckers.

Lieut. Harry Young is now of the opinion that, in spring, England might be a nice place (cf. last issue). He is functioning as a non-playing manager for a softball team and has high hopes for a perfect season.

#### OLD TIMERS

Dr. Sydney DICKINSON, of the Cambridge School of Agriculture says that, although he and his wife are thinner, "There is a whale of a lot of kick going around in us." On his own behalf and that of his countrymen, he praises and encourages our efforts to increase food production.

"Kindest regards and greetings to the former inhabitants of the Tottering Tower" came recently from J.G. LEACH of Morgantown, West Virginia.

Old Timers in Canada participated in the program of the Canadian Phytopathological Society held at the University of Toronto on June 26-29, according to T. JOHNSON, secretary-treasurer. President F. J. GREANEY presided at a symposium on extension work, in which T. L. CONNERS participated; Dixon L. BAILEY was chairman of a symposium on virus diseases of tree fruits; and GREANEY led a discussion on cereals, which constituted one section of a symposium on seed-borne diseases. Members of the American Phytopathological Society were kindly invited to the meetings.

Dr. W. J. CHEREWICK, now titled Agricultural Scientist in the Rust Research Laboratory at Winnipeg, sent "sincere regards" and speaks in terms that speak pages and pages to Old Timers who have been thru the mill that grinds out degrees. "Finally I received the reprints of my somewhat revised thesis."

On the hottest day of 1944 the Seminar received a refreshing post card from "Sax" Sackston, also of Winnipeg, showing skiers sending snow sky-high on a hill at Brandon, Manitoba--where there are disease plots as well.

Dr. RALPH "Lindy" LINDGREN, of the Division of Rubber Plant Investigations, stationed at Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, reported in April that he was still "plugging away at Cryptostegia." He hoped to encounter Old-Timer Stakman before the latter left for this country, but Mexico apparently is a land as large as the oranges it is reputed to produce; so no reunion occurred.

Big Chief ECS lost his status as Old Timer on May 16, on his return from Mexico.

Dorothy Blaisdell VAUGHN basked in the sunshine of Hollywood, Florida, for six weeks the latter part of the winter. Too bad she couldn't match suntans with Senor Stakman.

"Thank you" goes to the J. Lewis ALLISONS, at Wisconsin, for a snapshot of Janet Elizabeth and John Miller for the Aurora children's gallery.

In the absence of husband Ted Wright, Mrs. Gladys "Saline" Wright has transferred her affection from the University Farm kok-saghyz lab to the head barberry office in Minneapolis.

Because Aurora-Chairman DOWNIE left Aurora headless when he departed for Colorado, the body of the committee threatened to remove his name from the mailing list. Says he: "In all our discussions of cutting the mailing list, it was never suggested that I be included in the execution list. Carry on--and retain me on the mailing list or I'll never write an article on the beauties of Colorado.--Andy" \*\*\*\* Recently he popped into St. Paul and appeared to have all the qualifications for membership in the Boost-Colorado Club.

Velma and Glenn KENKNIGHT announced the arrival of April 4 of Glendolyn, who is undoubtedly now queen of the casa at 512 S. Lincoln, Moscow, Idaho.

On May 13, at Virginia, Minnesota, Paul Frederick was born to Sargeant and Mrs. Fred CURRAN. Mama was secretary in the Department, when she was Rosemary MILTICH, for the year preceding October 15, 1941, which, as all of you should know, was D Day for Phytobrickhaus erectus. Rosemary left for another position the day before we moved; ECS and JJC just left town, while the rest of us carried the furniture.

Old-Timer K. W. KREITLOW, of the U. S. Regional Pasture Laboratory at State College, Pennsylvania, brought his wife and son to Minnesota for a vacation in June. Enroute he visited St. Paul and discussed formally and informally his experiences with forage crops.

Coyt WILSON reports his activities at Auburn, Alabama, as consisting of failure of his fungi to cooperate with him, loss of 3 bowling games to Mrs. Wilson, success in catching 6 bass + 1 sunfish in an experimental pond on the station, and the main event just beginning - a bout with diseases of legumes. Says he: "I would like to caution the newcomers not to believe all that the chairman of the seminar is likely to say about me. SEAL ("Jimmy" to Old Timers) sends his regards."

LITERATURE SEMINAR

This report covers about 4 months due to the fact that this columnist didn't get his copy in for the last number. He gave pressure of other duties as an excuse, but suspects in his own heart that he is getting lazy. Some of the highlights of the past 15 or 20 seminars are as follows:

Phytopath Reviewed! It was decided sometime in January to devote one seminar per month to the critical discussion of articles in Phytopathology by people interested in the field covered by each article. The December issue was pretty well covered. Discussion of the January number was apathetic, except that it was agreed that the articles contributed by Minnesotans (Gottlieb and Tervet) were outstanding. Since then Chairman Darley has posted notices to the

effect that later numbers would be reviewed, but seminar slipped back to the old routine of trusting to the guidance of the Spirit for material for discussion, and knowledge of Phytopath and its treasure-house of scientific fact and theory have again become entirely an individual responsibility.

Highlights - Scientific and Artistic

Dr. John E. Kotila of the Office of Sugar Plants; B.P.I., U.S.D.A. spent several weeks with us during the beet-planting season and attended seminar several times. On April 27 he spoke formally after introductions by Dr. J. J. Christensen, who was aided by Bob Nyland (Hort.) and Frank Stevenson. Dr. Kotila discussed his work on Rhizoctonia on sugar beets as well as damping off and root rots caused by other organisms. The evening was very profitable for his listeners, who were stimulated by the ideas and viewpoints he expressed.

On May 4, Mrs. Robert Warner, whom Dick Davidson had sold on the idea that plant pathologists were capable of appreciating art, attempted to explain the subject to the seminar and a number of the wives who were brought along in case the male pathologists failed too dismally to respond. Mrs. Warner, a capable artist herself, succeeded not only in furnishing an evening's delightful entertainment, but also in giving a few of the uncouth pathologists a better understanding of how to enjoy pictures. She neatly fooled us by making no claim that this or that was good or bad, but announced that individual preference was very important. This left us practically harmless because the layman has nothing else to argue about when it comes to art.

The Truth about Colorado

After an investigation covering nearly 4 months, Dr. Andrew Downie returned to the fold to give us an unbiased opinion of Colorado. Previously we had to base our ideas of that state on the stories told by Thomas, Darley, and earlier still, of John Vaughn. Downie, who is now working for the American Crystal Sugar Co., also discussed problems, pathological and otherwise, involved in growing sugar beets, and in general impressed us with the problems and triumphs of a pathologist who has to work for a living. Downie says he misses seminar.

Mexico

Dr. Stakman returned from his southern sojourn about May 16, thereby missing the holiday atmosphere that pervades the building when the annual progress reports are being invented and put on paper. On June 8th he reviewed the rust situation in Mexico, embellished with drawings of mountains, and after a substantial lunch furnished by the Chief himself, he described the new volcano, Paracutin, which was born down there in 1943. (Stak felt the earth shaking in its birth-pangs during last year's trip.)

Sermon

Occasionally, as the gentle reader may remember, Dr. Stakman gives with high philosophy and homely precept for the benefit of the young and the wayward. A letter from Captain Kernkamp provided a text for one such sermon on June 22. The Captain says in his letter that he dreams of test tubes and agar and that one doesn't learn to know people in a University. So Stak lectures on knowing people, and says, among other things, that University people aren't so smart, but the laity are more conspicuous in their ignorance because they don't know how to cover up so well. Stak says he could get 3 or 4 more sermons out of Kerny's letter. We'll have to watch that boy after the war. Incidentally, Hazel Strege doesn't put out bad philosophy in her letters. Hazel is a WAVE and writes her impressions in a charming and entertaining manner.

Educational Headaches

Dr. Helen Hart, Editor-in-Chief of Phytopath, and others have brought up the question of how to speed up publication of scientific results (assuming that the investigators have ambition enough to write up their work, which many haven't). Among numerous things suggested were (1) Make papers short as possible and so well written that they won't require a lot

of editing, (2) Let there be more money for publication so scientific journals can be bigger and more numerous.

Attendance During the months of April, May, and June attendance at literature seminars averaged 18.1+ persons. Not bad considering the fact that the Department now consists of about that many staff members and students or assistants, all told. Federal cooperators, visitors and people from other divisions help to keep attendance up.

Regular Business Announcements, as in days of yore, sometimes take half the seminar period. Right after Stak left for Mexico some of the boys broke out with announcements calculated to edify, improve or reform their brethren. Thomas gave instructions on how to use the hand trucks which are in the lab and greenhouse; Matt Moore viewed with alarm the tendency to wipe tables and floors with the towels of which he is custodian; Andrews described the correct method of washing quart jars and offered to demonstrate. Bill Loegering, a chronic griper, smugly announced that he had nothing to gripe about.

#### REGULAR SEMINAR

During the spring quarter, regular seminar was devoted to a discussion of mutual relationships among microorganisms, a subject chosen as timely because of the work on penicillin being done here now. No mimeographed papers were prepared. Some of the boys got off the track a little as it is laid out in the Gospel (Principles 112w), but at least much new material was accumulated and partially digested.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

Each and every one of us, including the Big Chief, has been put to the test trying to answer questions about how to do for what when you aren't sure and, "Besides," the voice on the phone says, "I've got so and so, but it says here in the paper not to use that!" (Official explanation: The original release, which was couched in guarded terms, was "pepped up" by the publications service and made to be very emphatic.)

E. C. Stakman presented a paper on "Aerobiological Aspects of Allergy" before the American College of Allergists in Chicago on June 10.

R. C. Rose came in from a week's trip around Northern Minnesota which followed a jaunt through the southern counties. He reports late blight in dumps at six locations, halo blight in oats, and plenty of tomato leaf spot. He reports that potato dusting by plane, in the Valley, is again planned this year, with two planes on contract and perhaps more to follow.

Dr. Louise Dodsall has been answering an assortment of questions,

of which peony leaf spot and bud blight have constituted a considerable proportion. She was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter of thanks after she had supplied information requested by one individual.

Timely tips about plant diseases are being spouted weekly by radio: On April 7, C.M. Christensen spoke on treating tree wounds; on the 13th, C.J. Eide picked on the poor old potato dump; a dramatic reading entitled "Plant Diseases in Relation to World Events" was next offered by W. D. Thomas, Jr; R. C. Rose told victory gardeners what to do about disease problems; and Al Larson talked about victory garden weeds. By the 11th of May enough requests for information about winter injury on shade trees had come in so that E.F. Darley felt impelled to go on the air. E.G. Sharvelle next moved in and talked about fruit. On May 30 there was another sally on the part of C.M. Christensen against the problems of winter injury.

June brought C.J. Eide back in Chapter VI of the serial entitled "The Potato Dump". The day that marked the end of

the fiscal year found E. C. Stakman taking time out to discuss "Cereal Rusts." In addition, E. G. Sharvelle and A. C. Hodson of Entomology have been holding forth every Monday since February 21 on fruit problems. Their next program will be on Fireblight,

as it is quite prevalent this year and inquiries have been numerous.

There also have been phone calls, specimens by mail, and personally-escorted diseased vegetables, but what would life be in the summer without them?

### SPORTS

The sporting blood of the inmates of the "Brickhaus" has not been very much in evidence this spring. The weather and work have both played a part in disrupting the athletic activities of the few who remain to wander in the almost vacant corridors. No kitten ball team was organized. That was to give the other Divisions a chance at being champions for one season.

Andrews still plays golf occasionally, but no one has ventured to take him for a round and beat him at his own game.

Feeble efforts have been made at angling with little or no success as few good fish stories have been circulated except for Wilson in Alabama. Some tiny fish were hooked on occasion and successfully boated. Such fish varied in size from minnows to enormous specimens that satisfied the minimum requirements of the fishing laws. However, the grapevine carried something one day to the effect that Matt Moore hooked a "Whopper", \_\_\_ lbs bass but lost him. The only voucher for that yarn is F. Stevenson and he isn't talking.

Somewhere around 1657, a gentleman by the name of William Coles gave the following sage advice: "...Gentlemen which have little else to do, I would advise them to spend their spare time in their gardens; either digging, setting, weeding, or the like....Gentlewomen, if the ground be not too wet, may doe themselves much good by kneeling upon a cushion and weeding. And thus both sexes might divert themselves from Idleness, and evill Company, which oftentimes prove the ruin of many ingenious people."

Most departmental members have taken this advice unto themselves, and food is being produced in Victory Gardens for current use, for canning purposes, and for winter storage. If Mable tells Joe that she picked peas for dinner last night, Joe tells Mable that he has canned 3 quarts already. And the specialists are hard put to it sometimes to diagnose their own garden maladies.

The weather has also become a sporting event, with puddle jumping and umbrella toting the main attractions. Eagle added up 6.88 in. of rain at University Farm in May, and the official weather man reports that "at Minneapolis the rainfall for the first half of the month was the heaviest ever recorded in May since the beginning of official records." Minnehaha Creek overflowed its banks, and Minnehaha Falls again is worthy of its name. The total in June at University Farm was 9.26 in., and the skies have wept almost daily during early July. The lower part of the experimental plots would now make a happy home for a Louisiana bullfrog.

Greenhouses are being whitewashed.

### PERSONALS

Shosuki Goto from Seattle via Edmonton, where he recently received an M.S. under Doc A. W. Henry, spent several days here in April while awaiting induction at Fort Snelling. ... Major A. A. Nikitin, formerly with the Tennessee

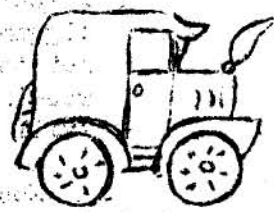


Copper Company visited old friends Eide, Sharvelle, and Rose on April 20 - 21. ... Dr. Ross Davidson of Beltsville, Maryland, spent a day in consultation with our forest pathologists, C. M. Christensen and Ellis Darley in early May. ... Dr. Ethel Sue Horton, former minor in plant pathology, who has been teaching botany and bacteriology at St. Olaf College, Northfield, spent the day with us June 19. ... Dr. Kenneth Neatby of Winnipeg spent a day here enroute from the national conference of cereal chemists. ... Dr. Roderick Sprague of Mandan consulted our cereal and grass pathologists June 19, then proceeded with Earl Hanson on a survey of foot rot and seedling blight. ... Roy Gritzmacher, plant breeder with the Minnesota Canning Company, has paid Eide and DuCharme several visits. ... Miss Joyce Wilson, who has been studying with Dr. Brodie in Winnipeg, spent June 21 in the Department. ... Dr. Charles Thom visited the penicillin lab June 22 and gave us all a most delightful talk on the early development of industrial microbiology including personal glimpses of such men as R. A. Harper, John Coulter, George F. Atkinson, C. O. Smith, and G. H. Kauffman. ... Mr. Guy Vaughn spent the afternoon with us June 22. He brought encouraging news of Jehn, who is again under Allied Command and who expects soon to be transferred to the U.S.A. ... Captain Hatch (Mycorrhiza Hatch) visited the Penicillin Lab. June 28. ... J. Allen Clark, B.P.I., inspected wheat plots and conferred with members of the staff on June 27 and 28. ... Dr. J. E. Kotila was at St. Paul in late April and early May, seeding sugar beet plots. He gave a very interesting and informative seminar about sugar beet diseases and other problems that he has investigated. ... Harold W. Beckstahler, formerly of Rocky Ford, Colorado, and Wooster, Ohio, is the new pathologist who is taking over the former duties of Old Timer Andy Downie. Beckstahler has been working on sugar beet diseases for more than a decade. ... Lewis Saboe dropped in on June 22 before catching a plane for Watertown, South Dakota, where he planned to inspect his farms and join his family, now on vacation. Lewis sends regards to his many pathologist friends.

Dr. J. J. Chris has been honored again by being elected vice president of the Minnesota Chapter of Sigma Xi. (Beware of the presidential habit!)



Earle Hanson journeyed to Mississippi to pick up a government car. On his way back he saw Old Timer Earl Hansing at Manhattan. Dr. Eide and his aids, DuCharme and Stevenson, are keeping their eyes open on trips to various points in Minnesota for all pathological problems connected with potatoes and vegetables. Richard C. Nelson, plant physiologist, now with Citrus Concentrates, Inc., Dunedin, Florida, made a fleeting call the latter part of May. Dr. Hart and Miss Hamilton spent a week's vacation at Wheaton, Illinois (near Chicago) early in June. Highlights of the trip were a half day visit to the Morton Arboretum at Bisle, Illinois, mowing the lawns, weeding, and teaching a litter of six young pups to drink from a saucer. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Andrews a son, Bruce Lawrence - June 7, 1944.



Thatcher Hall has almost been taken over by the Plant Path gang: The Andrews, Darleys, Davidsons, Ehrlichs, Moores, and Tsiangs all live there now.

On June 25 arrived Sr. Ing. and Sra. Jose Rodriguez of Mexico City. He has a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship for a year's graduate work in plant pathology, for specialization in the rusts, and the Señora is a bride of less than two months.