

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The gentle breezes, light snows, and other stimulating variables typical of a Minnesota winter have by no means deterred the vigorous visitors, who thronged to and through our halls in gratifying numbers, leaving their footprints on the floors and their imprints on our minds and hearts. Whether they came for intellectual refreshment, to share their or our latest discoveries, or just to get in out of the cold--one and all they were welcome.

From the University of Wisconsin came Dr. Ken Buchholtz, on January 17, to talk on weed problems. On January 19, Dr. H. C. Murphy, from Iowa, but whose fame in work on crown and stem rust of oats extends over a large region, skidded in for a short but enjoyable visit. On the same day we had Dr. Theodore W. Sudia, James T. Threinen and Wayne Anderson of the Winona (Minn.) State Teachers' College. January 26, Dr. S. E. A. McCallan of the Boyce Thompson Institute, Yonkers, N.Y. spent most of the day looking over research in progress and telling of his own work. On January 30, Old Timer H. A. Rodenhiser, Head of the Cereal Crops Section for the U.S.D.A. at Beltsville paid us an all-too-brief visit, most of which he spent closeted with Chief JJC; so few of the rest of us had much chance to try to impress him with our individual or collective acumen, if any. On February 9, came O T Norman E. Borlaug, wheat breeder with the Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico, to spend a couple of days, during which he visited, talked, listened and discussed old and new times in Minnesota and Mexico and points north and south of both. Along with him came José Rodríguez V., a not-so-old but most able Old Timer whom we were most pleased to see again, and who has gained some weight and much stature in his work for and with the Dirección General de Agricultura, Mexico City. On February 23 we enjoyed the company of Mario O. San Juan, Instructor, U.P. College of Agriculture, Laguna, Philippine Islands. On the same day came Dr. Margaret Newton, now of Victoria, but formerly of the Tottering Tower and the Winnipeg Rust Lab. The

primary purpose of her visit was to accept an Outstanding Achievement Award from our great University, an award which we all thought was well given and well received.

Dr. John J. McKelvey, Jr., Assistant Director for Agriculture, Rockefeller Foundation, New York City, was here on March 1, ostensibly to discuss problems pertaining to stem rust and wheats resistant to same, but probably also to refresh himself with a view of God's Country. On March 2 and 3 we had as a guest Dr. Jean F. Malcolmson of England's Agricultural Research Council, where she is concerned with potato storage investigations. Tiburcio T. Reyes, Research Fellow in Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Laguna, P.I., arrived on about March 1 for a stay of two weeks. March 7 brought two visitors, James E. Sharon, formerly of Iowa State College but now on the staff of The Farmer, and Bert Schutta, nursery operator in St. Paul who probably has just as many miscellaneous problems as most of us but in addition has a number of problems of his own. Mr. Frank L. Mitchell, President of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, who also farms near Canby, Minnesota, spent most of March 8 going through the Department. Along with spring on March 23 arrived Drs. J. C. Ryker and R. S. Hodgson of the Dupont Co., to discuss new and old seed-treating compounds and other fungicides. On March 28, Dr. F. W. Went, Professor of Plant Physiology at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, spent most of the day with us and spoke on facilities for "Controlled Environment". With the seven inches of snow that had fallen the evening before, combined with rain, hail, sleet, and high winds, thunder, lightning and assorted other meteorological violences, and with more of the same beating against the windows as Dr. Went spoke, we could have wished for means to control the outdoor environment too. Dr. Went is here to present one of the invitational, all-University lectures sponsored by Sigma Xi, his subject being "Role of Environment in Plant Growth".

Visiting Professor Professes

Dr. Carl W. Boothroyd, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, arrived about the middle of February, to stay for some time. He is on sabbatic leave from Cornell, and is now an Assistant Professor in our Department. His work will involve mostly diseases of cereal crops, especially wheat and barley, and soon after arrival he was deep in the preparation of massive amounts of inoculum, filling the building with the agreeable odor of autoclaved barley. He is a member in good standing of the 303¹/₂ Luncheon Club, even if he did find the noon tea concocted there so unpalatable that he had to bring his own tipple along. In addition to other duties, privileges, and responsibilities, he has undertaken the task of teaching Ecology of Plant Pathogens, a course originated and developed by Dr. M. F. Kernkamp. Kernkamp, as mentioned elsewhere, resigned rather suddenly to accept a position as Assistant Director of our Experiment Station. It was most fortunate that Dr. Boothroyd generously volunteered to Profess this subject; otherwise the course would have been left high and dry, or at least dry.

Comings

New graduate students are John D. Dreher, of our own College of Agriculture, now working with Dr. Boothroyd; B. P. Chakravarti, and Subhi A. Qasem. Mr. M. Yousry El-Sawah, Plant Pathologist, Plant Disease Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, Egypt, is here for a term of six months, with no time off for good behavior.

Leavings

John Kotheimer, graduate student from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, who came last summer and was occupied with the fungus flora of weed seeds, was taken from us by the Armed Forces a couple of weeks ago. We hope and expect to see him return in due time, covered with medals and full of zest for Plant Pathology.

1/ The C. M. Christensen-C. J. Eide Lab, where at 12 noon the male staff members open their paper sacks. (Matt Moore's is always the biggest.)

Dr. C. L. Schneider, U.S.D.A. expert on sugar beet diseases and Aphanomyces cochlioides, and long a denizen of the second floor, has left for presumably greener sugar beet fields at Beltsville, Md. His job, if not necessarily his place, was taken by Howard Bissonnette. We miss Chuck Schneider, and hope that his work, associations, and physical and intellectual life and activities will be as happy and productive there as they were here.

Hosni A. Mohamed contributed a thesis, passed his final oral examination with flying words, acquired the Ph.D., and left soon thereafter for Cairo.

EXTRA -- LEAVING EXTRAORDINARY -- EXTRA

Some two weeks ago we learned, with mixed joy, consternation, alarm, foreboding and pleasure that Dr. M. F. Kernkamp, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology here and long a member of our Department, had been offered, and had accepted, a newly created position as Assistant Director of the Experiment Station, University of Minnesota. So, while he still will be on the campus, he no longer will be of, and probably seldom in, our revered halls. The consternation, alarm and foreboding are for ourselves, the joy and pleasure for him. Dr. Kernkamp carried a considerable load in our Department, having been in charge of soybean and forage crop diseases, and a close collaborator with the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics in the development of new disease resistant varieties of these plants. In addition, he was a member of seven committees within the Department, at last count, and was chairman of most of them, ranging from Library to the Research Field, duties which he discharged effectively and with seeming ease, without any of the usual snorting, blowing, and pawing the ground and the air that so many of us engage in when we are involved in some of these committee activities. In his new job he trades the fascination of working with plants for the dubious rewards and many frustrations of working with people--and often individualistic and cantankerous people. The work probably will at times seem frustrating and nonrewarding (in a figurative sense, that is) but we are confident of Kerny's ability to take it. We will miss him sorely, but we wish him success, happiness, and a long and productive administrative career.

