

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.

