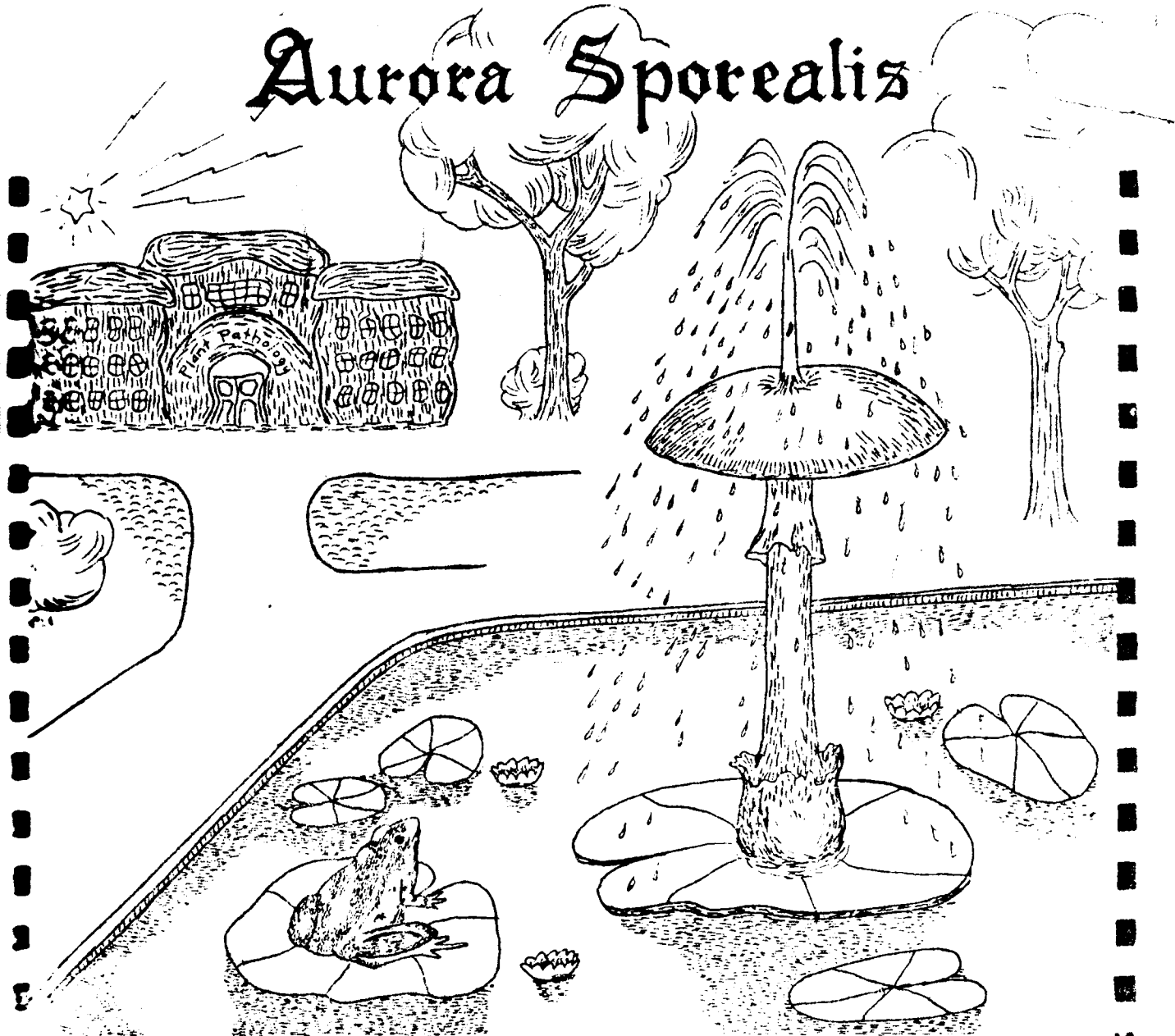


Aurora Sporealis



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

Let the fount foam and never rundry,
Let the spout squirt and never lose power.

OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

Perspicuity may suggest perspiration, especially in the dog days when a person sees but dimly thru the salty droplets. Whether it is a gift or a product of one's own efforts suggests the old question as to the relative responsibility of a person's ancestors, the Creator, or his school teachers for what he is and knows and does. Whatever the answer, perspicuity is a handy thing to have around. So is perspective. It is supposed to be an optical device for showing objects in their right position; but it includes also devices for producing fantastic effects or optical illusions. Phantasmagoria is a very euphonious word and has certain connotations worth considering. Scientists are presumed to have perspicuity and perspective; they are expected to guard against phantasmagorias. Well, Old Timers, perhaps it is a good idea to readjust our sights periodically and have a good look to see whether our objectives are properly selected for their scientific and practical value, and whether they are in focus, or whether we see only a confusion of distorted and blurred images. I dunno; it 's too hot to be profound, but maybe we need to use the fine adjustment and the high power and look hard anyhow.

-o-

Old Timerette Pro Tem, FRÄULEIN DOKTOR HELEN HARDT, recently sent card, with 3 postage stamps affixed, stating the following essential conclusions: (1) Giebichenstein is beautiful (See card on bulletin board); (2) Is St. Paul a hazy dream rising from out the mists of a dim and distant past or is it a Hick Town? (3) May and June are THE MONTHS for rust observations in Deutschland; (4) Ergo, DOC HART and FRL. DOC HANNA BECKER scour the fields from dawn till dark. Ach, Ja, Fräulein 2 Doktors, so would we if we could urediniologize in Parea, on the Thein (wine an all), in the Bavarian Alps, in the Thuringian Hills, on the Elbe, the Donau, the Weser, the Saale, die Oder, der Main; and would we go on the Spree! Well, Berlin has been on the Spree ever since it was a pup. And would we pup up if we could pop a coupla buddels on the Spree -- or even on a Rost Reise. For, after all,

"Wein und lustig Lied

Machen froh Gemüt."

And, by the shadows of the ravens that hover round the resting place of the eternal Friederich Barbarossa, pickles and rye bread, barley sap and Thüringer Mettwurst would not be the worst things in the world to whet the desire to corral all the stray spores of Gelbrost der Getreide und Grasarten. PROSIT!!!

-o-

MARRIED: Miss Olive Hawley to MR. DONALD FOLSOM on the twenty-third of June, 1937, Lincoln, Nebraska. At Home, Orono, Maine.

Looks like this would be the season to go visiting again: Read below and ye shall see, the gracious offers of hospitality!

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DR. H. D. BARKER says "We are always pleased to have with us any one from Aurara's Foaming Fount."

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DR. EBI LAMBERT to the same effect, with a twinkle and a smile: "I will be very glad to do what I can to assist...in making contacts...in Washington. I do not mind that type of thing at all --- it gives one's ego a sort of boost."

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And from fairly new Old Timer CLYDE C. ALLISON, of Greenville, Tennessee, comes word to "please remember that the 'latch string' is off any time to any past, present, or future members of the Tottering Tower who happen to find Greenville."

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ALLISON says further:

"We have just finished setting our tobacco and certainly feel relieved, as that really is quite a job. In addition, I have just moved into new quarters at the Experiment Station five miles from town. I have an office and laboratory combination, 15 ft. by 30 ft., which is very satisfactory and should be conducive to research. In addition, a new greenhouse has been built adjoining the lab with two sections totalling 60 ft. x 29 ft., so I apparently will not be able to take much vacation during the winter if I keep the greenhouse full.....We have an excellent year for crops, and the cereals are the best for a long time. All in all, the country is looking fine."

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Reunion in Classic Cambridge -- GIBBS, DICKINSON (Dr. and Mrs.), WESTERN. Sorry we could not all be there, but England should have been Merrie indeed and we would all have been Merrier could we have participated in the festivities -- rain or no rain!

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IAN TERVET will soon make good his promise to come back soon. Sometime soon, of a fair September morn, we expect to see him again -- as an Amurickan in the making.

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Regards come from DR. A. F. VERRALL to "all the boreal pathologists." He is celebrating the publication of his thesis bulletin, but grieves to find that "despite vigilant proofreading, at least one mistake crept in: ...the...word should be living and not dead." A grievous error indeed; hundreds of copies accordingly are being brought to life!

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The HERBARIUM of the T. T. through OLD TIMER John A. STEVENSON, is now the possessor of a set of fungus specimens prepared by Dr. G. Grant Hedgcock, representing the fungi upon which was based his paper entitled "Studies upon some chromogenic fungi which discolor wood," published in the 17th Report of the Missouri Botanical Garden, 1906.

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LEON J. TYLER informs us that "Mrs. Tyler, Denis, and I drove to Morristown a couple weeks ago and visited with the Grahams. Tommy and Vera apparently are in good health, and good spirits. Tommy has to travel considerably, and I hear he is now in Indianapolis looking over some newly found D. E. D. trees."

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"Off the Scilly Isles on May 9," very new Old Timer J. G. GIBBS wrote seriously, in part, as follows: "My trip round the South Eastern States and Washington...went very smoothly, and I was fully occupied assimilating the information that was made available to me. Every one I met seemed to lay themselves out to make sure that I saw everything that it was possible to see in the time available.....The car is now mine no longer. Some poor individual who wishes to drive to California for the summer thought it worth \$90...I really think he will get there but it will cost him quite a lot for oil....Looking forward to a chance of seeing Miss Hart and Miss Becker again sometime soon....Tomorrow we land in Southampton. Regards to the group and to your office staff."

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Out from the West comes word from Old Timer BAMBERG, now at Bozeman, Montana. "One conclusion I have reached is that one of the crying needs of much of this whole area is more water, tho I haven't found out how to do anything about it.... At Moccasin stands of spring grain are poor, and recent dust storms have stripped almost everything clean of leaves and there is very little moisture to promote new growth. Havre is in about the same condition....Unless rain comes in those areas very soon, I believe there will be very little if any grain crop. Mr. McKee is considering shipping the cattle from the Moccasin station if the drought continues for more than another week....."

"Mrs. Bamberg came out on May 20 and, as we have a new house rented, we find it very pleasant living here."

"Tell Aurora that I haven't been fishing yet, to have any really tall tales, but we did have a snow yesterday (June 3), only a little in town, but the mountain tops around have a new white covering today."

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Honor hath it that K. G. MCINDOE, Leopard Hunter and Liberian Latex Doctor, has been ensnared in the holy bonds of Matrimania. Gadzooks, an can it be? Say 'aint so, Mac; or if you can't honestly say that, then say tis so! Once Mac pinned a gardenia on a leopard's chest and that was something! -- But to twine garlands of orange blossoms round his own classic brow and derby hat; whoda thunk it! Lucky Lady! The happy couple will make their home on Mandingo Road. Or will they? Where in blazes is our Liberian Reporter? Lost in the Jungle mayhap; or mayhap Matrimania has made him a softly softly reporter. We have a mania to know.

PERSONAL AND PERSONNEL

The month of June brought three more new Ph. D.'s to the Tottering Tower, Clyde M. Christensen, Lee Ling, and Ralph (Lindy) Lindgren of Kitten-ball fame. Also Alan R. Gemmell of Scotland entered the select circle of those with advanced degrees by obtaining a Masters Degree.

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A tea to bid A. R. Gemmell a happy return voyage to Scotland, the land of famous golfers, was held June 16. We all hope he does not forget the Tottering Tower and that we will see each other again soon.

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R. C. Lorenz and C. M. Christensen spent a few days in the Superior National Forest surveying the canker situation, which in late years has become increasingly prevalent. R. C. Lorenz is returning to Washington Tuesday after being stationed at Minnesota for four months.

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Bob Atkinson paid us a pleasant visit for a few days, and at a Literature Seminar, held at Dr. Leach's Home, gave us an excellent review of the work being carried on at Louisiana State University.

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Wilbur V. Harlan also joined the select circle of those successfully passing preliminary examinations for a Ph. D. degree (Major-Ecology). He is now stationed at Mandan, North Dakota, doing shelter belt inspection work for the Soil Erosion Service. We expect him to return in the fall.

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Dr. Stakman and Mr. Fletcher are now on a five day rust survey trip but we probably will not receive a report on the situation before we go to press.

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We wonder if Dr. Hart has anything to report concerning the Rust situation in Germany.

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Dr. L. Dodsall is now spending her summer vacation at her summer place amid the cool breezes (and army worms) of Lake Superior.

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Miss H. Pearson also selected the heat of July as the time to take her summer vacation tour.

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Miss M. Goddard, Mycologist at Southern Illinois Normal, is spending the summer in our Department at University Farm. She has selected variation in the genus Fusarium as her problem.

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The last two months, the familiar question has been radiating through the Department, "Have you seen Eagle"?

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Dr. H. H. Flor and family spent a short time visiting at the Department June 28. Dr. Flor was just completing a rust survey of flax in Minnesota, South and North Dakota.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Dr. Stakman and his gang have now joined the list of radio immortals -- Iate Smith, Eddie Cantor, and Rubinoff. The Division of Plant Pathology and Botany gave a 30 minute broadcast extolling the virtues of the department as a whole and the members as individuals. Those participating were -- Drs. Stakman, Leach, Christensen, Dosedall, Eide, Landon, Larson, and Moore (Minn) Allison (Mont.), Tsiang (China), Gemmell (Scotland), and Chilton (La.).

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Two more budding Plant Pathologists have passed thru the period of travail successfully. Wismer and Kreitlow have passed their German exams.

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Lou "Mont" Allison, besides his multitudinous duties as chairman of the seminar committee etc., has become a Forest Pathologist working for Dr. Schmitz in the Department of Forestry. He never speaks of less than 400 petri dishes, jars, and cultures now.

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E. K. Vaughan has now entered the select circle of those having passed "prelims". Congratulations Ed.

HEART THROB COLUMN

Miss Harmala, Dr. Tolaas's secretary is vacationing in Oregon, and will be gone for two months. Miss Lenke is now pounding the typewriter keys for Mr. Tolaas.

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Dr. Leach has been to Itasca State Park twice this spring in his usual chase after the elusive Ambrosia beetle and its fungus. Mr. Chilton assisted Dr. Leach and saw Itasca Park for the first time.

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Identification work on physiologic races of rust is in full sway and Bob Cassell is perspiring over their separation.

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Miss Dosedall is vacationing at her cottage on the North Shore and Dr. C. J. Eide, besides being a fruit pathologist is now an "Ornamental" pathologist.

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Dr. Freeman, has been in bed the last two weeks with a bad leg which has been troubling him since February. We are glad to say he is much improved and is back in his office.

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Science is now being pursued in the Plant Pathology Department strictly for the love of scientific truth. Reason ---No University appropriation by the legislature - no funds - no money for pay checks - but lots of work!

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Minnesota has again vindicated itself and is going to have the ideal climate, 30° below during the winter and 105° above during the summer - (A maritime) an average temperature of $67\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.

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"Oh it ain't gonna rain no mo'" and the experimental station farm has hose running in every direction - Henson (The clover man) has the record - 500 feet of hose from the faucet to his clover beds, and Eagle is now 30-hr. eagle - "Rain in 30 hrs." is all he says.

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Wang has now finished his thesis and again can get his regular $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of sleep each night.

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The yearly eyestrain in the department is developing. All available eyes are peering thru microscopes and counting the numbers of rust spores carried by the wind from points South.

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Ponomareff has returned to Arizona for the summer and will be back this fall - season Job - and Wismer, has gone back to Kansas for a vacation.

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Lee Ling, now Dr. Ling, has just been on a 3 weeks trip east - Niagara Falls, Cornell, N. Y., Howard University, Boston, Mass., New York, and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Columbia University, Boyce Thompson Institute, and United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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The Big Chief is getting to be a regular home-body. As far as could be determined by this reporter, he made no trips during May. On June 17 he attended a rust conference at Manhattan, Kansas called by the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases at the Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas. On July 9 he left for a rust trip survey in the Red River Valley and attended an informal rust conference at Fargo, North Dakota on July 12-13.

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Every year on July 8, since 1927, the Annual Simultaneous Stem Rust Survey has been made along several routes across central Minnesota. This survey is conducted jointly by the Minnesota barberry office and the Stem Rust Epidemiology office. The personnel has varied considerably over the eleven years. Dr. Melander has made approximately the same route every year. Dr. Cotter has covered another route for several years. This year Ward Marshall, Thain Stewart and Dr. Melander of the barberry office, Dr. Cotter and R. C. Cassell of the Epidemiology office, St. John Chilton, L. Hwang, T. King and A. Downie of the Division of Plant Pathology made the survey. Three routes across the state were covered and numerous grain fields were examined for rusts.

REGULAR SEMINAR

May 4. Phares Decker gave a long dissertation on the discovery of the potato and the origin of present commercial varieties; also a peep into the future at the superior varieties we will have a few years hence. Decker mentioned that the potato was discovered by "Jewish priests" in Chile in 1550.

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May 11. Herr Doktor pointed out that there were 12 papers left this year and 4 time periods in which to present them. All papers to be short, concise and 25-30 minutes long.

Downie began; his subject: "The nature of resistance of wheat to Puccinia graminis." Can you imagine, gentle reader, anyone disposing of that subject in 25-30 minutes? Not in the Tottering Tower. But he did practically finish by 4 p. m.

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May 18. Stak: "Downie can have 7 minutes to ask questions." He asked two, and then Stak started.

Finally Downie: "Hey, our 7 minutes are up."

Stak: "I said you could have 7 minutes but I didn't say how many I would take."

Wang finally got started on "The nature of resistance to smut fungi," another subject that Minnesota plant pathologists can not slip over lightly. Wang, who seemed to know everything that was ever done about smuts, used the rest of the period and the following one.

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May 25. It was decided that all seminar papers should be finished, and a 10 minute summary given this year. All those not given in full will be presented first thing next fall. Wang continued.

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June 1. Ralph Lindgren, home to take a Ph. D. final and pitch a last game of kittenball, gave two talks, one on forest pathology in the United States, the other on blue stain.

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W. White (Agronomy) presented a very good paper on "Inheritance in the ascomycetes."

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June 8. Dr. Stakman was absent. Chris, the old slave driver, carried out previous plans, ran thru about 9 speakers in the two hours. Highlights:

Matt Moore, his subject "Spontaneous generation and related phenomena", having thought intensively about the subject for nearly a year, stopped short at the end of 10 minutes with life as yet unoriginated.

A cat walked into the room as Lew Allison was trying to get profound on "Serologic classification of fungi". The cat yawned and walked out.

Earle Hanson wrote all he knew about rubber diseases on the board, thus occupying nearly all of the allotted 10 minutes.

Mary Goddard, present for the first time, nearly disrupted the seminar when she arrived.

LITERATURE SEMINAR

May 6. Literature.

May 13. The seminar discussed things in general, and with considerable hilarity, then to the disgust of J. Lewis Allison, acting chairman. Dr. Stakman and others, including the speaker of the evening, were due to arrive at 8:30 p. m. Eide bet Allison his ice cream that they wouldn't arrive until 9, and won as they didn't get there until 9:20. He's still waiting for the ice cream.

The guest speaker was Whittmore Littell, of the Commonwealth Fund, who told of the history and aims of that organization, and some of his experiences with the Commonwealth Fellows.

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May 20. C. S. (Chet) Wisner showed lantern slides taken during his stay in Liberia and subsequent trip around the world. Neither Chet nor the lantern slides told everything.

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May 23. Sunday evening seminar at Dr. and Mrs. Stakman's house, in honor of Professor Buller. After a superb supper, Dr. Buller discussed buttercups, rusts, and microtomes. Dr. Buller and Stak agree that expensive apparatus is not essential for good scientific work, exalting the cutter of free-hand sections, such to our discomfort.

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May 27. Some literature. Also big discussion of sex in fungi and then on science and when it started. For lunch: Cheerios, cookies, and coffee.

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June 3. The seminar met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Leach. Bob Atkinson, home on a vacation from Louisiana State University, discussed strawberry growing and diseases in Louisiana. The lunch served by Mrs. Leach was excellent.

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June 10. 1. Dr. Stakman explained the rust situation, telling how rust overwintered in Southern Mexico, but not very much in Texas.

2. Martin Schlegtendahl, from Germany, who has spent the winter studying plant breeding and plant pathology at Pullman, Washington, spoke of his impressions of America. Highlights: German students do not have to learn German at the Universities.

The American requirement that students attend classes when they do not want to is a poor example of freedom in America.

The early classes in German Universities are not popular when the students drink beer the night before.

3. Mary Goddard, mycology student from "Little Egypt", Illinois, and Wang, recently from California, introduced themselves.

4. Alan Gemmell showed slides taken during his trip thru the United States last summer.

5. Along about bed time the group started to sing and kept it up until nearly 12. The singing was, in general, very poor. Tsiang sang a solo which was good.

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June 24. Dr. E. A. Hollowell, of the U. S. D. A. gave an interesting talk on Clover. Bill Harlan furnished the food.

BOOKSHELF

- Allison, Clyde C. Studies on the genetics of smuts of barley and oats in relation to pathogenicity. Minn. Agr. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bul. 119. April, 1937.
- Dooling, Henry M. A study of scab resistance in the potato. Jour. Agr. Res. 54: 305-317. February, 1937.
- Wright, H. J. Species of Helminthosporium and Curvularia associated with root-rot of wheat and other graminaceous plants. Jour. Proc. Roy. Soc. N. S. Wales 70: 378-391. 1936 (Issued April, 1937).
-
- Studies on "take-all" of wheat. -- I. The Jour. Australian Inst. Agr. Sci. 3: 43-48. March.
- King, Lee and M. B. Moore. Influence of soil temperature and soil moisture on infection of stem smut of rye. Phytopath. 27: 633-636 May, 1937.
- Terrall, A. F. Variation in Fomes igniarius (L.) Gill. Minn. Agr. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bul. 117. April, 1937.

SPORTS

I

The Kittenball season is over and nearly forgotten, but may we mention in passing that we successfully defended our championship. It seems a shame that some of the other departments can not see the value of play as well as work. To our coach E. C. Stakman goes the credit for our success. "Give all you have at all times" is a good motto and may we remember to apply it.

Ralph Lindgren came back to pitch one more game before he was ousted. Lindy, we thank you especially since you won the game. The only real game we had all spring.

Another old hand did us a favor, Ward Marshall pitched the last game for us. We won with a breeze.

We now hope to have the name of Plant Pathology placed upon the cup for the last three years, providing there is room for the name and date.

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II

Summer is really here, and only occasionally can, Chilton, Downie, Hanson, and Decker be found enjoying an easy game of tennis.

Tommy King has the right idea, and takes his turn on the golf course. We wonder if his purpose is one or two fold.

Of course there are other members of the department but as far as we can guess they get their exercise swimming or by extended rides in the soft breezes and the bright moonlight.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Is this a sign or is this a sign?

Telephone rings:

Leach, mopping his brow with his handkerchief, "Hello, Leach talking."

Sister from local convent: "This is Sister____. Sister____, who has charge of our garden wants you to come over and look at her tomatoes and tell her what to do for them.

Leach: "What seems to be the matter?"

Sister F. L. C.: "She says she thinks they have a demon,

Leach, "Well, I am afraid I can't do much about that ---- Say wait a minute, how do you spell that demon? Oh, edema! I thought you said -----I, I- I ---- I just misunderstood you!

(No it isn't the humidity its the heat)

-o-

The night watchman thought he had caught a burglar or at least a vandal or something when he investigated strange lights and noises in the Plant Path. plots after midnight, but he found only Matt Moore inoculating barley plants with smut.

Dick the dishwasher says: "Some folks use the hot weather as an excuse for not working and some don't need any excuse."

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"Gee! its so hot I'd almost swap a hundred petri dishes for an electric fan -- if I had the petri dishes."

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The Minneapolis Journal publishes the daily pollen count for the benefit of those suffering from hay fever. I move that during June and July they publish the daily rust spore count for those suffering from "rust fever." And do they suffer?

VISITORS

*BOB ATKINSON and (Wife), University of Louisiana.

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PROFESSOR A. H. R. BULLER, The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Surrey England.

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J. A. CLARK, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

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PROFESSOR J. G. COULSON, MacDonnell College, Quebec, Canada

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J. G. DICKSON, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

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A. C. DILLMAN, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

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*H. H. FLOR, U. S. D. A., Fargo, North Dakota.

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E. A. HOLLOWELL, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

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J. E. KOTILA, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

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*R. L. LINDGREN, formerly U. S. D. A. now with Washington, D. C.

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W. L. POPHAM, U. S. D. A., Washington, D. C.

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A. J. RIKER, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

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MARTIN SCHLEGTENDAL, University of Halle, Germany, now at Pullman, Washington,

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R. G. SHIELDS, U. S. D. A. University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

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F. H. SPENCER, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D. C.

DISINTEGRATION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The "Better 'Ole" might well be changed in name to the "Lonesome 'Ole" as now none of its original members hold seats within its walls, in fact all are 3000 or more miles distant from this once so cosmopolitan graduate room. Last year, following the remodeling in the Plant Pathology building, the British members of the Tottering Tower, Western, Gibbs, and Gemmell, fell heir to the new well lighted and airy room on the N. E. corner of second and promptly titled it the Better 'Ole. Western was named chief and allotted the big flat top desk facing the east window from which he had a superb view of all the pretty girls as they disembarked from the intercampus car and strolled up the walk. When Western left the Better 'Ole last September to return to England, Gibbs advanced to the big desk and Allison, the Montanan, made up the trio. The British dominated until Gibbs left in March to return to his native New Zealand. This left only one of the original group, namely Gemmell, and he took over the big desk and Kreitlow a new local boy made up the quota of three. Graduation this spring found Gemmell leaving the Better 'Ole also, to return to Scotland. Thus the Better 'Ole has lost its charter members as have both the other graduate rooms on second. Lee being a charter member in 203-A leaves for China the latter part of July and S. S. Wang in 203-B leaves for China via Europe early in August.

Tottering Tower is going to miss the stimulating influence and knowledge of all these men who originally filled the new rooms on second and hopes that the men whom they now may carry on as well.

— Holds membership in the Tottering Tower Society.