

Editorial Comment

VIVO EX VIVO

The National Association of Biology Teachers has not developed de novo. We have found that the germ from which it has sprung, has retained its vitality and potentiality for growth. We, who have experienced its emergence, are now anxious to see it mature rapidly.

The splendid cooperation of our members and friends has confirmed our expectations that The National Association of Biology Teachers and its periodical *THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER* would be received with an enthusiastic welcome. More than ever before we have the utmost confidence that our objectives will be realized. With your assistance we gladly face our job of serving the needs of biology teachers and biology teaching everywhere.

I. A. H.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Only within the last two decades has biology been generally recognized as a separate subject. The spread of biology since its inception into the curricula of high schools has been phenomenal. This formation of a national association might seem superficial to the casual observer since it was the culmination of an extremely rapid growth and expansion of the subject. However, every move during the formation of the association was marked by careful deliberation and extreme meditation by its organizers.

As to who conceived the idea that a national association should be formed is difficult to determine. It seemed to precipitate in all sections of the country at once. This was encouraging and indicated there was a need throughout the country for some unifying force. It is hoped this need has been met.

Reasons for the existence of a national association are numerous. The large number of biology teachers necessitates a common basis for determining problems. Some of the problems existing are what should be taught, what is the best method of presenting that material, and the various devices for presentation. The journal should help to solve these problems.

The future of biology as a separate subject depends upon how well biology teachers meet the life situations of their charges. The most pressing demands are for the dissemination of biological knowledge and a permeating of this material into other subjects of the time. It is possible for biology to disappear as a separate subject from the curricula but the teaching of biological principles will remain as long as there is a scheme of education.

The present group of officers represents but a fractional minority of the individuals responsible for the formation of the association. Special mention should be made and thanks given to members, the chairman and representative of the Committee on Biological Science Teaching. They have spent much of their time and effort over a period of many months in aiding and crystalizing the organization. Thanks should especially be made to Dr. Riddle for his success in petitioning and obtaining a grant from the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The national association will always be grateful.

This committee, delegates from various sections of the country, and others have perfected the association—they placed it directly in the hands of the secondary school teachers, it is up to them to carry on.

M. C. LICHTENWALTER