

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As retiring president I wish to thank those that assisted the association over a critical period,—its organization and first year. Mention should certainly be made of the aid from the Committee on Biological Science Teaching, the organization delegates, the executive board, and the hundreds of biology teachers that pledged their support and paid their membership dues prior to organization. This support is indicative of the fact that there was a need for this type of association.

The affiliated locals should be encouraged during the next few years. This is a fertile field and will contribute materially to the parent organization. The formation of additional locals rests with the biology teachers of a given region; but support can come from the national after formation. It will be from the groups of affiliated locals that future leaders of the national will be selected. Attention must also be given to the educational studies being made or started by the local chapters. Such studies can well be the nucleus for the study of biological problems national in their scope.

The journal also commands attention. It is with regret that the next volume of *THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER* will, in all probability, be under the direction of a new editor-in-chief. Mr. Herskowitz has set a high standard—this must be maintained. The journal is the official organ and commands your support.

In conclusion I sincerely hope you give the same cooperation to the new Executive Board as you did the first. We cannot all be officers, nor write dynamic articles for publication. However we all can help the National Association of Biology Teachers materially with our membership dues and aid in securing new members.

M. C. LICHTENWALTER

OUR NEW OFFICERS

1939-1940

At the December meeting the executive board of The National Association of Biology Teachers appointed a nominating committee for the purpose of making nominations for the offices of president-elect, first vice-president, second vice-president, and secretary-treasurer in conformance with the regulations prescribed by the constitution of the association. Dr. D. F. Miller was appointed chairman of the nominating committee. Ballots were mailed during February to all paid up members and returned votes were counted after April 15th. The results of that election are as follows:

President-elect: George W. Jeffers, State Teachers College, Farmville, Virginia.

First Vice-president: Miss Villa B. Smith, John Hay High School, Cleveland, Ohio.

Second Vice-president: Charles C. Herbst, Beverly Hills High School, Beverly Hills, California.

Secretary-treasurer: P. K. Houdek, Township High School, Robinson, Illinois.

Our new officers take over their duties on July 1, 1939, and will remain in office for one year.

In addition our president-elect for the present year, Malcolm D. Campbell, Dorchester High School for Boys, Dorchester, Massachusetts, will become president for the coming year.

Our sincerest congratulations to our new officers.

Exchange Service

Frank Shaw, Junior College, Can Luis Obispo, California, will exchange marine animal forms and representative local botanical specimens for biological materials from other parts of the country.

NEW ENGLAND BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVE

Members of the New England Biological Association gathered for the third regular meeting of the association during this school year at the New England Museum of Natural History. As usual attendance was impressive; approximately 125 teachers coming from Massachusetts and more distant states, to attend the meeting and participate in the discussions.

The meeting opened with Leo J. Fitzpatrick, president of the association, presiding. Following introductory remarks by President Fitzpatrick, Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, Scientific Director, New England Museum of Natural History, gave an address of welcome to the association. Following a brief business meeting in which the treasurer reported a very satisfactory payment of dues both to the local and national associations, Miss Eunice Sharp, of the faculty of Chicopee High School, Chicopee, Mass., gave a teaching demonstration of vertebrate skeletons, which was well received. The next speaker was Dr. C. W. Pomerat, Clark University, Worcester, Mass. Dr. Pomerat spoke of the value of blackboard drawing by the biology teacher and illustrated his subject with unusual facility.

Following luncheon, Mr. E. S. Russell, provided a demonstration of biological apparatus and material which proved of practical help to all. Next on the program was Dr. Kenneth S. Rice, Dept. of Education, New England Museum of Natural History, who spoke on the subject, "The Use of a Museum of Natural History by Science Teachers."

LEO J. FITZPATRICK

ROUND TABLE INTENSIFIES ACTIVITIES

The March twenty-fourth meeting of the Chicago Biology Round Table was exceptionally well attended. Last minute reservations necessitated the addition of a number of extra dinner covers to accommodate the members. Dr. L. H. Tiffany, professor of botany at Northwestern University, was the principal speaker of the evening.

The illustrated address by Dr. Tiffany was on the algae and proved to be extremely interesting. Many unusual highlights concerning this simple group of plant life were presented. Contrary to general opinion there are several more groups of algae than the currently common four color groups. Certain species live in extremes of temperature, some in ice, others in water of geyser streams up to eighty-seven degrees Centigrade; others thrive in unusual extremes of pH values of acidity or alkalinity. One peculiar species is found only on the backs of turtles.

Indications are in evidence that the earliest fossiliferous stratas point to the presence of algae with other first life forms. Specific species of algae lead seasonal existences generally connecting a period of dormancy with an active period, however, all species do not conform to the same seasonal period; one can expect to find some few types available at any season in favorable growing areas.

Miss Thelma Jones of Bowen High School reported on the progress being made by the committee working on the Council of High School Biology Clubs.

M. C. LICHTENWALTER

THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS

The Executive Committee and several members of the Kansas Association of Biology Teachers had a meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, on April 1, 1939, in conjunction with the Kansas Academy of Science. The meeting commemorated the first anniversary of the organization of the Kansas Unit of the National Association of Biology Teachers. In a business session, it was decided to begin studies on some problems of especial interest to biology teachers in Kansas. Committees were appointed to begin work on (1) the subject matter content of biology courses, and (2) methods in use in the teaching of the biology course in the high schools, with the possible improvement of both in view. These committees are to report at the next state meeting, which will be in Topeka in November.

NORTHERN INDIANA ASSOCIATION

In spite of rain and snow during practically the entire day, a splendid meeting was held by the Northern Indiana Association of Biology Teachers on April 15. A very enthusiastic group of teachers met at the Wabash High School, Wabash, Indiana, and enjoyed the following program:

1. Opportunities for Field Work
Paul F. Watson, Rochester
2. Field Study of Birds
Terzo P. Amidei, E. Chicago
3. Collecting Materials for Class Room Study
Oscar Valentine, Knox
4. Study of Tree Flowers in Spring
Miss Vesta Thompson, Fort Wayne

During a lull in the storm, the group took to the field nearby and enjoyed a very good demonstration field trip at which time many of the teachers collected specimens to take to their schools. All enjoyed the leadership and training in field trip methods.

A PHILOSOPHY FOR THE BIOLOGY TEACHER

Life, as viewed by modern biologists, is a process of continuous interaction between the living organism and the environment. The most successful living proceeds through the conscious effort of man as he reflects and deliberates about all that is purposeful to the good life.

Education as a process serves as the guide to the individual in his search for meaningful living. Thinking, perceiving and learning are all phases of this educating, which in itself is an enrichment of society.

Dynamic processes of growth, bring together the activities of life and education into an analogous fact. "Education Is Life," appears more meaningful as we consider the deep association between these processes.

We as teachers of biology have the vital task of presenting the very essence of both life and education. Realizing the momentous problems involving living, our aim should be to develop worth-while responses in the student through our medium of biology teaching. The fascinating study of life can be an everlasting influence of good on those we teach. Likewise as educators and biologists we will grow and develop through our bound association with life.

RAYMOND LYNCH,
Loyola University