

they fight fiercely for mates and territory during the mating season.

TED F. ANDREWS  
*State Teachers College,  
 Emporia, Kansas*

## BIOLOGY LABORATORIES

By "The Old Fossil"

PLANT TROUBLES. Mr. Andrew Fennema of Wisconsin in a quandary writes: ". . . our flower pots are falling apart; all pots are constantly covered with a white substance and the foliage plants rot off at ground level." The Old Fossil is confident Mr. Fennema has involved two problems in his statement. Plants rotting at ground level is one problem. This may be due to burning by the application of a fertilizer but it is more probable that it is a fungus infection. If it is the latter he must start with fresh soil and new plants. If fresh field soil is used, mix three parts of it with one part leaf mold and one part gravel passed thru a sixteenth inch mesh screen. If fresh field soil is not available the old soil may be conditioned. It should be saturated with repeated doses of potassium permanganate solution or bichloride of mercury solution. The soil may also be baked for several hours in an oven at a high baking temperature. An old greenhouse method is to drench the soil with a flood of boiling water for one hour. The deterioration of the pots, the second problem, is due to chemicals in the soil and the water. The clay pot has a tendency to scale and deteriorate as described but it does not affect the growth of the plants. If water is heavy with chemicals the gases such as chlorine may be removed by drawing water and letting it stand for a day. If there are doubts about the water use rain water or water direct from a stream or pond in which fish or algae are growing. If the water supports plant or animal life it is suitable for watering plants.

THE CHICAGO BIOLOGY ROUND TABLE included the following letter in its membership book for 1949-50: "Biology is one of the most important areas found in the common

learnings. The Chicago Biology Round Table is vitally interested in this field and is doing an excellent job building up a method of thinking throughout life. It would be well if every biology teacher in Chicago were an active member of this organization. A department makes a place for itself in the high school when the teachers are professionally alert."

Sincerely yours,  
 BUTLER LAUGHLIN  
*Assistant Superintendent  
 of Chicago Schools*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 1950. Butler Laughlin's letter could aptly apply to THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS of which the Round Table is an affiliate. If NABT could be assured of as many as five members in each state that would contribute to the organization besides paying their dues it would be a progressive growing concern. How active have you been? Have you ever attended a meeting, secured a membership, written an article, served on a committee, or submitted a word of comment or encouragement? There is not a closed circle of individuals working for the association. New workers with new ideas are constantly needed. Never has the group had much more than six or seven dozen members active in any one year. Yet they are doing a very creditable job. "The Old Fossil" does not get paid for saying this and to date he has not even asked for postage.

THE SCHOOL NURSE. Mr. R. C. McCafferty of Ohio writes (without benefit of that paragraph): "What would you like to ask your school nurse? We suggest that this question be the biology assignment for one day and that the school nurse be asked to come to class to give the answers. For example, our students asked: 'What is the best treatment for a blister?' 'What should be done about dandruff?' 'Is it desirable to have x-ray fittings for shoes?' 'Is there anything wrong with one's joints when they crack?' 'What causes warts?'"

CARD SUPPORT. One Sister informs us that she prepares display card supports by let-

ting Plaster of Paris harden in a deep watch glass. As soon as the cast is hardened it is removed, inverted and a saw keef is made into it. In this keef display cards may be supported for exhibit identification. I am sorry I misplaced the letter from the Sister that submitted the idea. We always give credit for suggestions.

TRIP FOR STUDY. Esther Rasmusen of Von Steuben High School, Chicago, is making a tour thru the Scandinavian countries this summer. She has in her biology classes one of the most comprehensive programs I have ever seen for the use of the microscope. She uses not only prepared slides but also uses culture material freely.

RECORDINGS. *Voice of the Forest and Spots and Station Breaks*, 33-1/3 rpm, obtainable from *Co-operative Forest Fire Prevention, State Foresters and Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.*

TRANSCRIPTIONS. *Bill Scott—Forest Ranger*, details similar to preceding. There is a series of twelve titles in this group. Write for information.

BIRDS. *A Guide to the Most Familiar American Birds* by Zim and Gabrielson; New York, Simon and Schuster, 1949, \$1.00. This is the first of a series, *The Golden Nature Guides*; others to follow are on flowers, insects, and trees.

SCHOOL EXHIBIT ON EYE CARE for elementary schools. Return transportation. Write National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.

The 1950 Year Book of the CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHERS INC. has reached the Editor's desk. This attractive 96-page booklet contains full information of the 1950 meeting of the Association, held November 24 and 25, complete membership and committee lists, an index to advertisers, blank spaces for notes, and various items of information. Other similar organizations planning year books might do well to write for a copy of the 1950 Year Book. The Secretary is Cecilia J. Lauby, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

Of *The American Biology Teacher*, published monthly October to May, inc. at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher: BUSINESS PRESS, INC., Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Editor: JOHN BREUKELMAN, Emporia, Kansas  
Managing Editor: BETTY LOCKWOOD, 15 Gramercy Park, New York 13, N. Y.  
Business Manager: none.

2. That the owner is:  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are:  
None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear on the books of the company; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiants full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear on the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

JOHN BREUKELMAN  
Editor