

A.M. The Conservation Committee will meet December 29, 8-10 A.M.

The National Association of Biology Teachers will co-sponsor an all-day field trip with American Nature Study Society on Sunday, which is being arranged by James Fowler of the Philadelphia Academy of Science.

A joint dinner will be held by all three societies with square dancing as one of the features.

Dr. Lily A. Weirbach is serving as general chairman of the local committee as an NABT representative and Charles Knopf is serving as chairman of NABT luncheon arrangements. Dr. Weirbach has organized a strong local committee to help with the registration, promotion, physical arrangements, entertainment, dinners, field trips and exhibits.

Send in your reservations for rooms on the application blanks printed elsewhere in the magazine. Our headquarters will be Hotel Adelphia.

Plan now to attend and to bring some of your friends. It will be one of our best conventions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dr. Breukelman:

I should like to commend you for publishing the very excellent letter of Dr. Arthur W. Jones in the January issue of *The American Biology Teacher*.

. . . The perversion of Darwin's pioneer ideas has too long provided a convenient basic principle for shameful and disastrous behavior on the part of man towards man; currently it offers a ready-made philosophy for the perpetuation of such behavior on a grander scale. Dr. Jones has made a timely plea for consideration of evidence which contradicts this philosophy and has assembled facts to support his views.

Dr. Ashley Montagu, whom Dr. Jones mentions, has written a little book, *On Being Human* (Schuman, N. Y., 1950) The evidence he presents is worthy of attention. In contrast to the fatalistic consequences of adherence to Social Darwinism—the struggle

that can result only in extinction—he offers the refreshing hope that man may yet build a better society on the basic principle of cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

LELAND H. TAYLOR,
West Virginia University,
Morgantown, W. Va.

Dear Editor Breukelman:

A few minutes "breather" permits me to write concerning the letter of V. T. Dimitroff, Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, New York, printed in the January 1951 issue.

Mr. Dimitroff's forthright criticism is belied by the fact that he has supplied an important and interesting report of the National Conference on Premedical Education of October, 1950. This should be of value not only to those of college level but also to the secondary school biologists who are shaping vocational trends in formative years.

I must differ with Mr. Dimitroff. The journal and the organization are, for me, very excellent, fulfilling a need that should be met. The biologists of all levels must be made to see that there is mutual interest and interdependence. We are breaking down barriers, not erecting them in this day and age of community of purposes and aims.

Mr. Dimitroff works in marvelously beautiful country. Let him supply the rest of us with some of the biology inspired by living in the Adirondack environment. We could all benefit from it, high-schooler or college professor alike. Let's have some contributions from the rich resources of Paul Smith's.

Very sincerely yours,

CHARLES E. PACKARD,
Randolph-Macon College,
Ashland, Virginia

NEW ASSISTANT EDITOR

It is with pleasure that *The American Biology Teacher* announces the appointment of B. Bernarr Vance as assistant editor. He is well known to all members of NABT and readers of ABT, both for his many services to the association and its journal and for his excellent work as

a teacher, author and missionary for the scientific attitude.

Among his other duties, the handling of the full-length manuscript will be Mr. Vance's special job. All such manuscripts may be sent, as was true in the past, to any member of the editorial staff. They will however be referred in the future to Mr. Vance, who will process them and pass them on to the editor-in-chief. All short items, letters, reviews, news notes and the like should be sent directly to the editor-in-chief, as in the past.

It is hoped that this division of duties will lead to better and more careful consideration of all types of material submitted for publication in *The American Biology Teacher*.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PLANT SLIDE EXCHANGES

For many years there has existed an acute need for some method whereby microscope slides of plants from all over the world could be made available to those needing them for any purpose. In the newly published "Anatomy of Dicotyledons" Metcalfe stresses the importance of building up reference collections of slides, particularly at every institution where taxonomic investigations are carried on. Many, if not most, such institutions lack the personnel and facilities for the preparation of slides, and there are also difficulties in the way of securing the necessary material from other regions.

The most practical method of obviating all the difficulties mentioned above appeared to be the establishment of an INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PLANT SLIDE EXCHANGES, to which materials might be sent for processing and from which participants could receive in exchange any available slides that they might desire. This Commission has now been established under the auspices of the Botanical Section of the International Union of Biological Sciences in cooperation with the California Botanical Materials Company, in the laboratories of which the materials will be processed.

The aim of the Commission is to enable cooperating institutions and individuals to build up reference slide collections by exchanging plant materials sent in by them for slides processed from either these materials or from those forwarded by others.

Any individual botanist, department of botany or botanical institution may become a member of the Commission upon payment in advance of an annual fee of ten dollars (\$10.00, U.S. Currency). Fees will be used solely for overhead expenses such as the preparation of lists of slides, slide boxes, postage, clerical assistance, etc.

Members are expected to collect and fix properly for slide-making purposes plant materials indigenous to their respective regions or collected elsewhere by themselves. All plants from the algae on are to be included, as are all plant structures. The two standard microtechnique manuals should be used for guidance in collecting: Johansen, *Plant Microtechnique*, or Sass, *Elements of Botanical Microtechnique*. If desired, detailed instructions concerning specific plants may be obtained from the Chairman. Each collection should be sufficient for a minimum of 2,000 slides. A series of developmental stages is far more preferable than material all of one stage. Materials are to be shipped in fluid to the Commission, carriage charges to be borne by the shipper. Each collection must be accurately identified as to genus, species and structure, and each species should be accompanied by a herbarium voucher giving all requisite data. These specimens will be deposited by the Commission in the Herbarium of Pomona College, and will be available on loan.

Each collection, upon receipt and acceptance by the Commission, will be given an exchange value of 10 slides. Materials which duplicate those previously sent by others may be given a lesser exchange value, depending upon their usefulness.

Members are entitled to receive in exchange any slides that they desire, up to the total of their allowances, whether these are prepared from materials sent by themselves or by others. An indication of what is desired should accompany the material and lists of available slides will be returned for selection.