



NEWSLETTER

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Officers. A mail ballot of the American Society of Pharmacognosy membership elected the following officers for the 1964-65 year: President: Melvin R. Gibson, Washington State University; Vice President: David S. Carew, State University of Iowa; Secretary: Rolf S. Westby, Eli Lilly and Company; Treasurer: Frank A. Crane, University of Illinois; Member of the Executive Committee: Harold E. Bailey, Wayne State University. Approval was also given for the enlargement of the Executive Committee to include the Editor of Lloydia. This post is currently held by Arthur E. Schwarting, University of Connecticut. The officers will assume their respective offices at the end of the annual meeting in June.

Annual Meeting. The 1964 annual meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy will be held June 22-25 at the University of Pittsburgh. Norman Farnsworth, University of Pittsburgh, Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee for the meeting, has announced that the following speakers have accepted invitations to present papers in the symposium entitled "Recent Advances in the Chemistry and Biological Activity of Vinca and Related Indole Alkaloids": Robert F. Raffauf (SKF) - "Chemotaxonomic Considerations of the Apocynaceae"; William I. Taylor (CIBA) - "The Biogenesis of Indole Alkaloids - The Growth of an Idea"; William Hargrove (Lilly) - "Structure-activity Relationships of Dimeric Catharanthus Alkaloids"; Marvin Gorman (Lilly) - "The Chemistry of Some Monomeric Vinca Alkaloids"; Norbert Neuss (Lilly) - "The Structures for Vincal leukoblastine and Leurocristine"; George Buchi (M.I.T.) - "The Chemistry of Voacanga Dimers"; Jerry Weisbach (SKF) - "A Review of 2-acyl Indole Alkaloids"; A. K. Rose (Stevens Institute) - "Certain Physical Aspects of Lochnericine"; M. Shamma (Penn. State) - "Chemistry of Certain Indole Alkaloids"; Gordon Mallett (Lilly) - "Microbiological Conversion of Catharanthus Alkaloids"; Gordon H. Svoboda (Lilly) - "New Alkaloids from Catharanthus roseus"; and U. Renner (Geigy-Basel) - "Alkaloids of Schizogygia caffaeoides." The Scientific Program Committee met in Philadelphia February 7 to continue planning the program. A more detailed program will be in the next issue of the Newsletter. The Program Committee is composed of W. I. Taylor (CIBA), B. Douglas (SKF), J. Weisbach (SKF), R. Raffauf (SKF), and Norman Farnsworth (Pittsburgh).

1965 Meeting. The Executive Committee of the Society has chosen the University of Rhode Island as the site of the 1965 meeting.

Lilly Grant. The American Society of Pharmacognosy has received a grant of \$1,000 from Eli Lilly and Company to support the Society's 1964 meeting in Pittsburgh June 22-25. Awarded by the company's research grants committee, the grant will provide funds for a two-day symposium.

Grants. Varro E. Tyler, Jr., Lynn Brady, and Robert Benedict, University of Washington, have received a five-year grant from the NIH in the amount of \$214,652 to support their study of the physiologically active principles in higher fungi....E. John Staba, University of Nebraska, has received a supplement of \$4,800 from the NIH for his study of "Tissue Culture of Plants Containing Cardiac Glycosides." He has also received a grant of

\$300 from the University of Nebraska Research Council for the project "Analysis of Morning Glory Seed and Stem Tissue Cultures for Lysergic-Acid-Type Alkaloids." This project will be in collaboration with Paul Larsen, Wesleyan University, Lincoln....Leo A. Sciuchetti, Oregon State University, has been awarded a grant of \$8,000 from the Research Council of the University for the construction of a greenhouse. The total cost of the facility will be \$9,180 of which \$1,180 will be obtained from the pharmacy greenhouse fund which was provided by the Oregon Drug Travelers. Sciuchetti has recently been awarded a three-year grant by the NIH of \$125,700 to screen Northwest plants for medicinal activity. The first-year allocation of \$37,785 will provide funds for the renovation of the pharmacognosy laboratory into a modern phytochemistry laboratory.

Personal. James E. Robbers has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Houston. Robbers obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees at Washington State University and his Ph.D. at the University of Washington....E. H. Djao, formerly of the University of Texas, is now associate professor of pharmacognosy at Loyola University....Gordon H. Svoboda, Eli Lilly and Company, has been given a formal citation by the University of Wisconsin for his work as a research phytochemist "whose brilliant investigations richly benefit his fellow man; whose dedication exemplifies the best traditions of creative work in pharmacy."....Edward S. Mika, University of Illinois, has been promoted to associate professor of pharmacognosy....Gordon H. Svoboda, Eli Lilly and Company, has been appointed by the Board of Trustees of the A.Ph.A. Foundation to membership on the nine-man Committee on Research Achievement Awards....Balkrishena Kaul, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu-Tawi, Kashmir, will spend a year at the University of Nebraska as a research technologist studying medicinal plant tissue culture....Herbert Jonas, University of Minnesota, spent last summer at the College of Agriculture, University of California, Davis, working with Roger J. Romani. His work involved the irradiation with Co⁶⁰ of tomato fruits to study the tissue breakdown by surface tension measurements and the effect on tomatine. Jonas will spend the spring quarter and summer teaching pharmacognosy at the Free University, Berlin.

Publications. The newsletter Explants containing references to recent plant tissue culture publications will be made available at the subscription price of \$1 from J. Lipetz, Manhattan College, New York....Richard Doughty, University of Kentucky, reports the availability of the monthly publication Fritzsche Library Bulletin, which contains a bibliography of papers published on volatile oils, their constituents, chemistry, etc. This is supplied at no charge from the Advertising Department, Fritzsche Brothers, Inc., 76 Ninth Avenue, New York....The combined reprints of three articles entitled "Recent Development in Biological Products," which appeared in the American Journal of Pharmacy last year by Louis Gershenfeld, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, is a worthwhile addition to any library and available from the author.

Puerto Rico Contact. A new member of the Society, Leonard B. Carr, Assistant to the President, Super-A Fertilizer Works, Inc., Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, indicates his willingness to cooperate with other members of the Society who might be interested in growing tropical plants of economic value in Puerto Rico. Carr has contacts at the administrative level with a number of corporations in Puerto Rico.

UAR Position. Carl H. Johnson, University of Florida, has forwarded information regarding an opening for a lecturer in pharmacognosy at Assiut University, Assiut, UAR under Fulbright sponsorship. The responsibilities would involve teaching the chemistry of vegetable drugs two hours a week and the biogenesis of medical plant constituents one hour a week, as well as supervision of research in pharmacognosy. They want a male over forty years of age. Correspondence should be with Professor Dr. Zakaria Fouad Ahmed, Head of Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Medicine (Pharmacy), Assiut University, Assiut, UAR.

Tennessee Offers Degree. Seldon Feurt has announced that the Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Tennessee, under the chairmanship of Elmore H. Taylor, has been approved to offer the graduate program leading to the Ph.D. degree. Ph.D. programs in

pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry as well as pharmaceuticals have been previously in operation at this institution.

Abstractors Needed. George M. Hocking, Auburn University, reports the availability of abstracting assignments for Excerpta Botanica, Sectio A - Taxonomica et Chorologica. Persons interested should write to Frau Dr. M. Nolte, Koenigin-Luise-Strasse 6-8, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany.

Plant Chemistry Course at Beirut. Charles I. Abou-Chaar, American University of Beirut, has reported on the course in plant chemistry required of senior students at his university. In addition to the pharmacognosy course and a general botany course, the students also take an introductory course in plant taxonomy. The course in plant chemistry complements the course in pharmacognosy and allows for a more "in depth" study of the chemistry of plants. He has found the Trevor Robinson book The Organic Constituents of Higher Plants (Burgess, 1963) to be an excellent text for such a course. He also recommends this book as an additional reference text for pharmacognosy courses.

Changes in Biological Abstracts. Biological Abstracts' new Systematic Index has been further revised for 1964 to allow much greater specificity and depth in searching. Originally introduced in April, 1963 as an added indexing aid for taxonomists, the machine-generated tool leads the botanist, zoologist, microbiologist, and biomedical researcher to papers listed according to the systematic classification of the organism under investigation. Specific taxonomic information categorized under the phylum, class, or order is readily found using the new index. In addition, the life scientist can, if necessary, further supplement his search by checking needed family, genus, or species names in the Subject Index. BA staff editors are adding many taxonomic key words to the Subject Index to provide even greater depth. Thus, through use of one or both indexes, the biologist can rapidly find needed references to papers in his field. Specific changes for 1964 in the Systematic Index provide for further breakdowns in microbiology and botany. Virology is subdivided into plant, animal, and bacterial studies; bacteria are arranged according to orders based on Bergey's Seventh Edition; algae, fungi, bryophytes, pteridophytes, and gymnosperms are listed by classes, and angiosperms, by subclasses. Subject classification in Biological Abstracts has been altered or added where necessary to correspond with those in the Systematic Index and also to define more explicitly the subject matter covered in each division. The subject heading in BA under which the paper appears and the abstract number are noted alongside the taxonomic reference.

Israel Congress. The First World Congress of Jewish Pharmacists will be held August 23-30 with sessions in Jerusalem, Behovoth, and Tel Aviv. The aims of the Congress are to present scientific achievements in the pharmaceutical sciences and will include reviews, symposia, and research contributions; to form the Foundation of the World Union of Jewish Pharmacists with the aim of promoting the cause of international pharmacy; to review the pharmaceutical developments in Israel and their place in the improvement of public health. Members of the profession are invited to attend this Congress. The scientific sessions are open to original contributions in all branches of pharmacy and allied sciences. Persons interested in participating should submit their abstracts not later than April 15, 1964 to The Organizing Committee, c/o The Pharmaceutical Association of Israel, P.O. Box 52, 6 Rothschild Boulevard, Tel Aviv.

Books. The book Progress in Chemical Toxicology, Volume 1, Edited by A. Stolman (Academic Press, 1963, \$14) may be of particular interest because of the chapter "Poisonous Mushrooms" by Varro E. Tyler, Jr. and the chapter "Poisonous Seeds and Fruits" by Arthur E. Schwarting....Persons interested in Carbon-14 studies will be interested in the paperback entitled Carbon-14, a Comprehensive Annual Bibliography of Applications in Chemistry, Biology and Medicine, Volume 1, which is available from Calbiochem, Box 54282, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54, California. It is distributed without charge....The following recently published books are worthy of consideration: Enzyme and Metabolic Inhibitors, Volume I, General Principles of Inhibition by J. Leyden Webb (Academic Press, 1963, \$26); Fatty Acid

Metabolism in Microorganisms by Klaus Hofmann (Wiley, 1963, \$3.25); Plant Physiology, Volume 3, Inorganic Nutrition of Plants Edited by F. C. Steward (Academic Press, 1963, \$24); Selected Botanical Papers Edited by Irving William Knoblock (Prentice-Hall, 1963, \$3.95); Families of Flowering Plants of Southern Africa by Herbert Parkes Riley (U. of Kentucky Press, 1963, \$14); Aquatic Plants of the Pacific Northwest by Albert N. Steward, LaRea J. Dennis, and Helen M. Gilkey (Oregon State University Press, 1963, \$4.50); Symptoms of Virus Diseases in Plants by L. Bos (Center for Agricultural Publications and Documentation, Wageningen, Holland, 1963); Tissue Cultures in Biological Research by G. Penso and D. Balducci (English Edition of Le Colture dei Tessuti nella Ricerca Biologica) (Elsevier, 1963, \$18); The Flowering Process by Frank B. Salisbury (Pergamon, London; Macmillan, New York, 1963, \$8.50); Les Maladies des Plantes Maraicheres by C. M. Messiaen and R. Lafon (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Paris, 1963, F21); Recent Plant Breeding Research: Svalof, 1946-61 by E. Akerberg and A. Hagberg (Almqvist and Wiksell, Stockholm; Wiley, New York, 1963, \$10); The Chemistry of Natural Products Volume 2, (Second International Symposium, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1962) (Butterworth, 1963, \$11); Chromatographic Methods by R. Stock and C. B. F. Rice (Reinhold, 1963, \$10); Advances in Lipid Research, Volume 1, Edited Rodolfo Paoletti and David Kritchevsky (Academic Press, 1964, \$14); Analytical Methods for Pesticides, Plant Growth Regulators, and Food Additives Edited by Gunter Zweig (Academic Press, 1963, \$24); Lehrbuch der Allgemeinen Pharmakognosie by Ernst Steinegger and Rudolf Hänsel (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1963, DM 69); Handbook of Poisoning by Robert H. Dreisbach, 4th Ed. (Lange, 1963, \$4); Biogenesis of Natural Compounds Edited by Peter Bernfeld (Macmillan, 1963, \$28); Antibiotic-Producing Microscopic Fungi by V. I. Bilai (Elsevier, 1963, \$11).

New Journal. Benjamin C. Stone, The College of Guam, has announced the publication of a new journal Micronesica which will be a journal devoted to the sciences of Micronesia. The projected botanical articles for this journal are principally of an ecological and taxonomic nature.

Editor's Note. The Executive Committee of the American Society of Pharmacognosy has provided funds for three issues of the ASP Newsletter during 1964. Whether this publication continues beyond 1964 depends upon its value to the Society members. It can only be as valuable as the members make it. Items for publication will be solicited approximately three weeks before a deadline for each issue, however, items may be submitted at any time from now until early May for the next issue. The source of all material will be recognized in the Newsletter. The response to requests for items for this current issue was disappointingly small. This newsletter replaces the "News and Events" section of Lloydia.