



# NEWSLETTER

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Annual Meeting. The Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy will be held June 22-25 at the University of Pittsburgh. Norman Farnsworth of Pittsburgh reports that full details on housing, meals, meeting rooms, and entertainment will be mailed to all members in the near future and may reach the members before this Newsletter. An extensive symposium on Vinca and related alkaloids is planned for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Invited participants include researchers from Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, France, and Canada as well as the United States. Original papers will be presented Tuesday night and most of Thursday. The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday night and the business meeting for Thursday afternoon.

Newcomb Award. James E. Robbers, University of Houston, has been selected as the winner of the 1963 Graduate Student AFPE Edwin Leigh Newcomb Memorial Award for his paper "A Chemical and Chemotaxonomic Evaluation of Inocybe Species." The award will be made at the ASP banquet in Pittsburgh. Robbers recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington State University.

1965 Meetings. The ASP meeting at the University of Rhode Island next year has been scheduled to begin June 15 and will be a three-and-a-half-day meeting. The committee in charge will be Leonard Worthen, chairman; Heber W. Youngken, Jr., Daniel Tsao, Bruce Bohm, all of the University of Rhode Island; and the Secretary of the Society, Rolf Westby. It should be noted that this meeting precedes the Third International Symposium on the Biochemistry and Physiology of Alkaloids which will be held in Halle, Germany, June 24-27, 1965.

Grants. Marvin H. Malone, University of Connecticut, has been awarded \$3,016 by the University of Connecticut Research Foundation to finance research on the exploratory pharmacological evaluation of forty species of higher fungi...Leo A. Sciuchetti, Oregon State University, has received a \$7,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct an undergraduate research program in pharmacognosy during a ten-week summer period. Five pharmacy undergraduates have been selected to study the effects of various growth regulators on medicinal plants...Paul Sacco, Xavier University, has been awarded a postdoctoral research grant by the University of North Carolina Raleigh Division for the summer of 1964 to characterize the exotoxins of a member of the Pseudomonas group.

Personal. ASP President Gordon Svoboda, Eli Lilly and Company, participated in the Annual Pharmacy Seminar at Ferris State College April 21, addressed the Rho Chi chapter, and spoke to the student body of that institution..Stanley Scheindlin, The National Drug Company, addressed the New Jersey Chapter of A.Ph.A. April 22 on the subject "Plant Drugs Make News Again"...Finn Sandberg, Stockholm, in 1963 visited pupils and colleagues in Cairo, then went to Khartoum, Ibadan in Nigeria where he lectured. By way of Douala he went

to Brazzaville where he worked for a short time in the Institut de Recherches Scientifiques au Congo. With the help of Swedish missionaries he collected African plant material while in this area. Trips into the interior were made by canoe on the rivers and by auto on primitive roads. On March 26, 1964, Sandberg started a trip to Asia, making stops in Teheran, Karachi, Colombo, Singapore, Saigon, Pnom Penh, and Hong Kong before going to Kyoto, Japan for the Third International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products. After this meeting in Japan, Sandberg continued to Manila, Sydney, and Noumea, New Caledonia where he was an invited participant in a symposium on phytochemistry organized by the French... Robert E. Martello, who received his Master of Science in Pharmacognosy at the University of Pittsburgh, is now a phytochemist at Eli Lilly and Company associated with Gordon H. Svoboda.

Trease Books. G. E. Trease, University of Nottingham, is writing a book on the history of pharmacy in which the history of pharmacognosy is more fully considered than in the single chapter in his textbook of pharmacognosy. He hopes the book will be in print by the end of the year. Trease also reports that the Eighth Edition of his Textbook of Pharmacognosy was sold out and that the publishers are reprinting sufficient copies to supply the demand until the appearance of the Ninth Edition in 1965 or 1966. Trease requests that anyone wishing to make suggestions to him regarding this text should feel free to do so.

Pharmacognosy in Halle. Varro E. Tyler, Jr., University of Washington, is currently spending a sabbatical year in Halle, Germany. Upon the request of the Editor he has prepared the following account of the activities at the institution there: Numerous research projects of interest to pharmacognosists are currently in progress at the Institut für Biochemie der Pflanzen, Halle/Salle, Germany. Under the direction of Professor Dr. Kurt Mothes, some twenty scientists and approximately eighty technicians and service personnel are studying various aspects of nitrogen metabolism in plants.

Dr. H.-B. Schröter, Vice Director of the Institute, is concerned with methylation and demethylation processes, damascenine biosynthesis, and the alkaloids of Withania somnifera. Dr. H.-R. Schütte and his collaborators in the isotope laboratory continue to devote their attention to the biosynthesis of alkaloids, especially derivatives of pyridine, quinolizidine, and tropane. Research in Dr. D. Gröger's laboratory is concerned with Claviceps harmala, Adhatoda vasica, and Vinca species. Dr. G. Reuter is engaged in studies of guanidine compounds in various plants, and Dr. I. Böttger is examining the role of nucleic acids in protein synthesis. Plant growth substances, especially kinetin, are being investigated by Dr. L. Engelbrecht. D. Neubauer and H. Böhm are engaged in a collaborative chemical-botanical study of alkaloid production by Papaver species.

Also of interest are studies being carried out in the Institut für Pharmakognosie für Martin Luther University, Halle. Professor Dr. O. Bessler is continuing to delve into the history of pharmacognosy, an appropriate endeavor in the city where the words "pharmacognosy" and "alkaloid" both originated. Dr. M. Luckner is investigating the structure and metabolism of quinoline alkaloids in certain Penicillium species, and Dr. B. Tschiersch is conducting studies on the biosynthesis of cyanogenetic glycosides in higher plants.

A recently completed addition to the Institut für Biochemie der Pflanzen has essentially doubled the available floor space of the original building which was completed in 1960. It is hoped that many members of the American Society of Pharmacognosy will be able to visit the Institute and become more familiar with the interesting research being conducted here during the Third International Symposium on the Biochemistry and Physiology of Alkaloids which will be held in Halle, June 24-27, 1965.

One of the numerous prominent visitors to the Institute recently was Dr. A. Tonolo, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy, who spent a week here during the month of March. At a seminar presented by Dr. Tonolo, he discussed his recent work, conducted in collaboration with Professor Dr. E. B. Chain on ergot alkaloid production in saprophytic culture. The finding that Claviceps paspali is not actually a member of the genus Claviceps and Dr. Tonolo's proposal to transfer this species to a new genus designated Mothesia in honor of Professor Mothes were of special interest to those in attendance.

Dutch Journal. George M. Hocking, Auburn University, wishes to remind pharmacognosists that the publication Quarterly Journal of Crude Drug Research, 347 Keizersgracht, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, should be considered as an outlet for articles based on original research.

Excerpta Botanica. George Hocking, Auburn University, reported for the last issue of Newsletter the availability of abstracting assignments for Excerpta Botanica, Sectio A - Taxonomica et Chorologica. He wishes to emphasize that abstracts may be written in English, French, or German and that an honorarium is paid. Hocking also recommends that libraries subscribe to this abstract journal. At his request a section on chemotaxonomy has been added recently. The publisher is Gustav Fischer, Stuttgart, Germany, and the price is DM 55.

Meeting Support. Norman Farnsworth, University of Pittsburgh, reports that financial support received to date for the 1965 ASP meeting includes \$1,000 from Eli Lilly and Company, \$350 from Ciba, \$100 from Searle, and \$50 from Johnson and Johnson.

Seeds Available. ASP member Clyde Robin, collector of wild flower seeds, P.O. Box 2091, Castro Valley, California, has investigated further the article by Harrison Doyle in the October, 1963 issue of Desert Magazine regarding Salvia columbariae ("Blue Chia"). Doyle reported the value of these seeds as a food supplement, and Robin has learned from some old Indians that they also are reputed to have medicinal effect. Robin will offer the seeds in his next catalog to be published in September, 1965.

AIRS Meeting. The Fifteenth Annual Joint Meetings of Biological Sciences, sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, will be held at the University of Colorado, Boulder, August 23-28, 1964. Participating societies will be offering scientific programs covering all the biological sciences. In addition, a highlight of the 1964 meeting will be several AIRS symposia -- on biotelemetry, exobiology, and laboratory facilities and standards. For registration information see the April, 1964, BioScience or write: AIRS Registration, Room 508, 2000 P Street, NW, Washington D. C., 20036.

Illinois Greenhouse. Ralph F. Voigt, University of Illinois, predicts that on or about June 1, 1964, his institution will begin the functioning of the new \$285,000 climate-controlled addition to its greenhouse. It is located at the University's Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station between Lisle and Downers Grove, Illinois. Special equipment in the greenhouse will permit the varying of conditions beyond the conventional humidity and temperature range now available. Temperature will be controllable at a range varying from 50°F to 90°F plus or minus 1° and the humidity 50 per cent or higher within a 5 per cent tolerance. The greenhouse was built utilizing funds from a \$100,000 United States Public Health Service grant in addition to \$185,000 provided by the University of Illinois.

TLC and GC Courses. Analabs, Inc., P.O. Box 5215, Hamden Connecticut 06518, is offering Gas and Thin Layer Chromatography Courses at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena, California, June 15,16,17,18,19, 1964. The Thin Layer Chromatography Course will be held June 15 and 16, and the tuition is \$100. The Gas Chromatography Course will be held June 17,18,19, and the tuition is \$125. Combined registration reduces the tuition to \$200. Further information is available from Analabs.

Berlin Meeting. Among ASP members on the program for the May 19-23 meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung in Berlin were A. Hofmann, Basel; R. E. Schultes, Harvard University; V. E. Tyler, Jr., University of Washington; J. W. Fairbairn, London; H. Jonas, University of Minnesota; E. Brochmann-Hanssen, University of California; H. Sander, Berlin; E. Stahl, Saarbrücken; and E. Steinegger, Bern.

Books. Green Medicine by Margaret Kreig (Rand McNally & Company, P.O. Box 7600, Chicago 60, Illinois, 1964, \$5.95) will be of particular interest to all ASP members. It is dedicated to the ASP by ASP member Mrs. Kreig. It is 472 pages of interesting, well-researched information on drug plant search and research. Every pharmacognosist will want a copy for his personal library, and it should be in every university library...The table of contents of Le Livre Jubilaire de M. Plantefol (La Librairie Masson, 120 boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris-6 (C.C.P. 599-Paris), 1964, 40 F.) lists seventeen sections, each written by an authority in some phase of plant morphology and physiology. The sections include such provocative titles as "Reflections of a Botanist on the Problems of Cancer" by Gautheret and "Aspects of the Radiobiology of Unicellular Algae" by P. Ozenda. However,

the most provocative title is that of the last section by P. M. Schuhl -- "L'homme, animal deprave?" ...Norman Farnsworth, University of Pittsburgh, reminds us that Volume VII of Modern Methods of Plant Analysis by H. F. Linskens, B. D. Sanwal, and M. V. Tracey (Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1964) is now available...George H. Constantine, Oregon State University, suggests Enzyme Chemistry of Phenolic Compounds edited by J. B. Pridham (Pergamon, London; Macmillan, New York) might be of interest to some ASP members. The following recently published books are worthy of consideration: The Germination of Seeds by A. M. Mayer and A. Poljakoff-Mayber (Pergamon, London; Macmillan, New York, 1963, \$6.50); Microchemical Techniques, edited by Nicholas D. Cheronis (John Wiley & Sons, Interscience, 1962, \$40); The Chemistry of Flavonoid Compounds, edited by T. A. Geissman (Macmillan, 1963 \$24); Progress in the Chemistry of Fats and Other Lipids, Volume 7, Part 1 by Sixten Abrahamsson, Stina Stallberg-Stenhagen, Einar Stenhagen (Macmillan, New York, 1963, \$5.75); Fortschritte der Chemie organischer Naturstoffe, Volume XXI by L. Zechmeister (Springer-Verlag, Molkberbastei 5, Wien 1, Austria, 1963, \$19); Advances in Tracer Methodology, Volume 1, edited by Seymour Rothchild (Plenum Press, New York, \$12); Photophysiology, edited by Arthur C. Giese, Volume 1: General Principles; Action of Light on Plants; Volume 2: Action of Light on Animals and Microorganisms; Photobiochemical Mechanisms; Bioluminescence (Academic Press, New York, 1964, Vol. 1 - \$14, Vol. 2 - \$16.50); Primary Processes in Photosynthesis, Volume 1 by Martin D. Kamen (Academic Press, New York, 1963, \$5.50); The Proteins, Composition, Structure, and Function (Second Edition), Volume 1 (Academic Press, New York, 1963, \$22); Non-Glycolytic Pathways of Metabolism of Glucose by Siegfried Hollmann (translated by Oscar Touster) (Academic Press, New York, 1964, \$12).

The Editor has found Blackwell's, Broad Street, Oxford, England, to be an efficient bookseller of English and European books. Books purchased from them are often cheaper than from book importers in this country. Lynn Brady, University of Washington, originally made this recommendation about a year ago. Readers of the Newsletter might be interested in the following listings in the Blackwell Science and Mathematics, Spring, 1964 catalog: The Genera of Flowering Plants, Volume 1, edited by J. Hutchinson (this is the first of a projected twelve volumes), price 6/6/-; Systematic Dictionary of the Flowering Plants of the World by S. A. Manning, price about 35/-; Physics in Botany by J. A. Richardson, price 40/-; Plants of the Canary Islands by H. H. Schaeffer, price 56/-.

Editor's Note. The third and last issue of the Newsletter in the 1964 volume will be published in November. Whether future volumes will be printed is dependent upon the ASP Executive Committee's action at its meeting in June. More contributions of news items are needed to make the publication a worthwhile activity for the ASP.