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The Wisconsin genotype: a news letter to former students. No. 20 November 1936

University of Wisconsin. Dept. of Genetics
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A News Letter to Former Students

Department of
Genetics
No. 20

Edited by the present
Graduate group

College of
Agriculture

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Halloween Party

The lively Halloween party staged at the Memorial Union this fall served as a good opportunity for everyone, including wives and sweethearts, to become well acquainted. The festive board was decorated with jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and place cards specially designed by Willard Hollander. Each guest was supplied with five pumpkin seeds, one of which had to be yielded every time he said "yes" or "no" during the party. A prize was awarded to the one with the greatest number of seeds at the conclusion of dinner. Favors in the form of dunce caps, which were worn during the dinner, added to the informality of the occasion -- some had trouble keeping them on. After dinner the group was divided into three sections. Each interpreted a song. The one which went to sleep illustrating "Silent Night" was awarded the prize by the judges.

A mock seminar followed with a number of the students imitating the older and more sedate members of the Department, to the amusement of everyone. (The performance re-echoed in the regular Seminar for two or three weeks.)

Bridge and round-table gossip held sway during the latter part of the evening.

New and Old Faces

With the settling down of the University to its busy hum it is noted that several old faces have disappeared and new ones have taken their places.

H. R. Albrecht married Helen Terry at Milwaukee on June 27 and then left for his new position at Alabama Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala. -- Good luck, Herb.

Ben W. Smith of the Univ. of Va. (M.S. '36) became Dr. Brink's new assistant, taking Albrecht's place.

Warren G. Black, Ohio State (B.A. '36) became Dr. Irwin's new assistant, which place had been vacated by C. D. Gordon, who also went to Ala. Polytech., in February.

Dr. G. W. Woolley married Anne Geneva Collins at Omaha, Neb., and then journeyed by car to Bar Harbor to assume his new position in the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory. (A recent communication has it that New Jersey is quite sincere with regard to its speed limits.) Nicholas L. Cuthbert, Univ. of Iowa (B.A. '36), took Woolley's place as assistant to Dr. Cole.

James Moulton of Northwestern University (B.S. '36), on a fellowship, is studying under Dr. Brink.

Back from the wide, wide world comes G. B. Pennebaker, Murray State Teachers College, Kentucky, to complete his doctorate work. Dr. Cooper's microtome is thereby kept running day and night sectioning uropygial glands in the pigeon.

J. R. Shuman, after spending June on a scholarship at the N. Y. Botanical Garden with Dr. A. B. Stout, returned to assist Dr. N. P. Neal on the hybrid corn project.

Advancements

It is a pleasure to report D. C. Cooper's advancement to the position of assistant professor, M. R. Irwin to associate professor, and N. P. Neal to assistant professor.

Guest Book

Since the last Genotype was published, the following have registered in the departmental guest book: -- (and one more whose handwriting was too much for the editors)

E. W. Lindstrom, Ames; A. E. Clarke, Nat'l Res. Center, Beltsville, Md.; J. F. Adams, Assoc. Seed Growers; H. Wexelsen, Norway; A. B. Nystrom, Bur. of Dairy Industry; T. J. Arnason, Univ. of Sask.; H. W. Marston, Bur. of Animal Industry; E. G. Mimelly, Manitoba; T. W. Gullickson, Univ. of Minn.; W. A. Craft, Bur. of Animal Industry; C. M. Woodworth, Univ. of Ill.; H. H. Cole, Univ. of Calif.; F. O. Richey, Bur. of Plant Industry; F. T. Woodruff, R. E. Richardson and F. L. Winter, all of Assoc. Seed Growers; K. F. Manke, Univ. of Nebr.; Mr. and Mrs. G. Meister, Expt. Sta., U.S.S.R.; Dorothea Greene; A. C. Cook, Md., U.S.D.A.; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Van Lone, Purdue; C. C. Little, Bar Harbor; C. Rosenbush, Iowa State; A. J. Pieters, U.S.D.A.; R. J. Garber, Forage Crops, U.S.D.A., Penn. State; W. J. Zau-meyer, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Md.; W. C. Allee, Univ. of Chicago; E. P. Spencer, Geneseo, N. Y.; and H. O. Hetzer, Iowa State.

Communications

Samuel Basherov writes from San Juan, Puerto Rico that the projects of the Animal Husbandry Dept. of the P.R.R.A. (Porto Rico Reconstruction Administration) are tick eradication and obtaining animals for resettlement farms of the P.R.R.A.

Alfred E. Clarke (Ph.D. '31) has gone to Beltsville, Md., as Assoc. Cytologist with the Bur. of Plant Industry, from the Univ. of Calif. -- "everything has more than come up to my expectations."

Edna Myers (M.S. '36) reports from the Ransom Seed Laboratory (Los Angeles), where she is working principally with beets for the development of resistance to curly top.

H. D. Barker (M.S. '17) has left Haiti to assume charge of the pathology section of Cotton and Other Fiber Crops & Diseases at Washington. He has been in Haiti about 12 years. "Interested in selecting a better type of cotton from the mixed native tree type." He has published a bulletin summarizing the results of the work.

S. S. Munro (M.S. '32) has gone to Dr. Crew's laboratory in Edinburgh on a fellowship. "... measuring the physiological efficiency of sperm produced by hyperactive testes as against those from normal or average glands." The lack of central heating in the houses is noted. We hope that bonny Scotland will thereby not be too damp and cold this winter for you, Mrs. Munro and the baby.

V. S. Asmundson (Ph.D. '30) at the Univ. of Calif. writes that some of his time has been diverted from the turkeys and chickens with the arrival of a son on August 28, 1936. "He shows considerable hybrid vigor" -- 8 lbs., 11 oz.

A. B. Chapman (Ph.D. '35) on an N.R.C. Fellowship at Ames with Dr. Lush and Chicago with Dr. Wright comments on the "fertility of the members of the Department (50%), with a good fit in sex ratio (4:2::3:3 P=.69). Winnie (Mrs. Chapman) and Babs are both well....."

Sylvia Losey (M.S. '35) reports as a "full-fledged recreational naturalist, in the adult education and recreation division of the Milwaukee schools..... We are beginning a small museum, and all donations are gratefully received." -- So kind readers, if you have any pink elephants, send them along.

3406 W. St. Paul Ave.

An announcement from C. R. Burnham (Ph.D. '29) reports his marriage to Mrs. Lucile Strickland at Morgantown, W. Va., on July 18.

W. A. Craft (Ph.D. '32), formerly of Oklahoma A. & M., has taken a position with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

M. A. Jull (Ph.D. '22), previously with the U.S.D.A., is now Head of the Poultry Dept., Univ. of Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Warwick (Ph.D. '24) announce the birth of a baby girl, Jane Alexandra, 9 1/2 lbs., on October 16, 1936.

A letter from Capt. J. B. Sweet tells us that he is now at the Army War College, Fort Humphreys, Washington, D. C.

It is with a great deal of interest and good wishes that the Genotype records the marriage of Ivar Johansson and Miss Boline this past June. Following a honeymoon in Leipzig and Southern Germany, they returned to Uppsala, Sweden, where Ivar went back to his work in the Agricultural College.

After spending the summer at Cold Spring Harbor on a scholarship with Dr. Blakeslee, Jack T. Spencer (M.S. '36) is continuing plant genetics work as an assistant to Dr. G. H. Stringfield of the Agric. Expt. Station, Wooster, Ohio.

Dr. Cole: That is not the pen we have been using at the barn.

G. Woolley: Yes it is.

Dr. Cole: Why no it isn't. It couldn't be; it is not the right color!

G. Woolley: O, well I accidentally dropped it in the water bucket and then wiped it off.

"Bundles from Heaven"

When the Genotype last went to press there was a modified sex ratio (2:1) among this year's departmental infants, but recent "blessed events" have corrected this modification and it now stands at the familiar 1:1 ratio:--

Dr. and Mrs. D. C. Cooper announced the birth of Robert Ernest on June 7.

Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Rieman announced the arrival of Barbara Kinsley on August 6.

Dr. and Mrs. W. K. Smith announced the arrival of Ian Wickware on October 8.

The Genotype understands that each of these "Bundles from Heaven" is progressing nicely, showing considerable hybrid vigor -- especially with regard to lung power.

Joe Robert Irwin (9 1/2 months) is progressing nicely according to his father. Dr. Irwin says that his son's hair is still red, he is wearing overalls, is a strong supporter of the New Deal, and all he needs is a shovel to lean on.

Alfred Gordon Dickerson (9 months) is now the controlling factor of the household. According to his father, G. E. Dickerson, he is full of mischief. Some have suggested that such traits may be inherited.

Poultry Science Meetings

Members of the Linkage Group are pleased to learn that at the August Poultry Science meetings at Blacksburg, Va., A. J. G. Maw (Ph.D. '35) was awarded first prize and R. Geo. Jaap (Ph.D. '34) received honorable mention. M. A. Jull (Ph.D. '22) was made Honorary member of the Poultry Science Assn. Following the Poultry Sci. meetings, Dr. Cole attended the meetings of the National Advisory ^{Com.} on Res. in Subjects Related to Eggs and Poultry (of which he is chairman) -- which were also held in Blacksburg.

Miscellaneous News Notes

With the arrival of Miss Kathrine Maples, part-time student secretary, replacing Miss Marjorie MacEachern, there will be considerable interest in any new combinations that may occur. Don't say it wasn't "pointed out."

W. L. Henning of Penn State and Mack O. North of the Wyo. Agr. Exp. Sta. were back again hard at work during the summer session.

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Wanted by a former student:

"An innocent sounding name for a girls' club interested in breeding rats and fruit flies." Any suggestions received by the Genotype will be forwarded.

On June 26 and 27 the University was host to the Fourth Alfalfa Improvement Conference, under the chairmanship of Dr. Brink. The meeting was attended by representatives of ten agricultural experiment stations and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Conference is intended to serve as a clearing house for those phases of alfalfa improvement which can most advantageously be carried forward on a cooperative basis. Attention at the meeting centered largely on plans being made for testing new strains of alfalfa on a regional basis, and much interest was shown in the steps taken by the U. S. Dept. of Agric. for increasing seed of desirable strains. Field trips were made to the alfalfa breeding grounds at Eagle Heights and to the University Hill Farms, where the work in progress at Wisconsin was discussed.

On June 1st Dr. G. H. Rieman (Ph.D. '30), formerly of the Associated Seed Growers, returned to the University as Associate Professor in the Departments of Genetics, Horticulture and Plant Pathology, to assume charge of the new potato project which is being put under way by this Experiment Station. (This is one of the research programs which is being directed by the Plant Science Conference, a group recently organized for the purpose of coordinating all phases of plant investigations which are being conducted by the University.) The potato program will be devoted to the development of potatoes resistant to scab and hopper burn. A breeding plot has been located at Port Wing, Wis., on the Superior Shore, where the cool moist climate is believed to be favorable for flowering and seed development. During the summer Dr. Rieman spent most of his time at Port Wing, and consequently, those who sweltered at Madison rarely saw the new member of the Department.

Trips and Vacations

Dr. Brink and family traveled through the South, stopping at Berea, Ky., Gatlinburg, N.C., and the Smokey Mts. In August Dr. Brink and Dr. Cooper left on a Potato Breeding tour, stopping at Port Wing, Wis., and St. Paul, Minn.

During the second week of July Dr. Cole, with other members of the Experiment Station staff, made the annual tour of inspection of the Branch Experiment Stations. Immediately upon his return he and Harry Laidlaw attended bee meetings at Atlantic and Ames, Iowa. Dr. Cole spent the third week of August with his family vacationing at Three Lakes, Wis.

Dr. Irwin and E. W. Shrigley attended the genetical conference held at Iowa University from July 8 to 11.

Drs. Casida and Chapman attended the Endocrinology sessions of the Amer. Med. Assn. meetings held at Kansas City, Mo., in May.

Two members of the Department presented papers at the meetings of the National Academy in Chicago this month. Dr. Brink gave a paper on "The physiological basis of heterosis" and Dr. Irwin presented "Immunogenetic studies of species relationships," by Irwin and Cole.

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According to "Gus" Rieman's story the second shot out of a newly purchased rifle brought down a 10-point buck (on a hunting trip in northern Wisconsin) one hour after the season opened. His story may be true, for he did bring such an aforesaid animal, and proudly exhibited it in front of the Genetics Building to the members of the Department.

Gladiatorial Combats

Held every Thursday in the Circus Maximus
for the
Amusement and Consternation of the Populace

1. Involutionary changes in reproductive organs of the cow.
2. Variability of mixed races.
3. Heterosis.
4. Biochemical survey of mendelian factors for flower color.
5. Cosmic rays as a source of mutation in *Drosophila*.
6. Radiation investigation of variability of genes in *Drosophila*.
7. Multiple strand crossing over.
8. Quantitative characters and the interaction of genes.
9. Genetics of hermaphroditism.
10. Gynandromorphs in *Drosophila*.
11. Genetics of pigmentation of animals.
12. The gene, its function and meaning in genetics.
13. Crossing over in heterozygotic inversion.
14. Meiosis and fertility in potato.
15. Transplantation experiments in *Drosophila*.

Note: If you can't attend these holidays, send
in the number of the event that arouses your
interest and receive a summary of the bloody fray.

G is for Genetics, which segregates and breeds true
E is the error, we always pursue
N is for numbers, always too few
O is ontogeny, lacking in clue
T is for translocation, now not at all new
Y is the sex that's hard to subdue
P is for probability, may it never fall through
E is end, I'm glad, aren't you?