



# **The University of Wisconsin press bulletin.**

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To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

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Vol. 32, No. 31

## U. of W. Physicists Find New, Accurate Atom Information

New and more accurate information concerning atomic force, which is generally credited by scientists with being responsible for the stability of matter and thereby "holding the world together," was divulged by two University of Wisconsin physicists in papers presented before the American Physical society meeting in Washington, D. C., recently.

The two physicists, Professor Gregory Breit and Raymond G. Herb, described experiments conducted at Wisconsin during the past two years with high voltage "atom-busting" apparatus, which yielded to them valuable information as to what goes on inside the atom, one of science's most mysterious present-day problems.

Shooting protons, which are electrically charged particles, at protons with the terrific electrical force of 2,400,000 volts, the physicists determined, concerning the new atomic force which was discovered only a few years ago, that such force:

1. Comes into play when two protons are only one tenth of a millionth of a millionth of an inch apart, and

2. That the force which propels the two protons together when they are that close to each other amounts to a fall through 11 million electrical volts.

### Hailed as Important

These discoveries are hailed as important in the scientific world because they reveal for the first time exactly how near two nuclei must be to each other before they attract each other with almost irresistible force, and because the distance within which the force sets in and its terrific energy are for the first time measured accurately.

In his analysis of the "atom-busting" experiments in which Prof. Herb was assisted by three other Wisconsin researchers, D. W. Kerst; D. B. Parkinson, and G. J. Plain, Prof. Breit found that the force between two protons is nearly the same as between a proton and a neutron, which is a neutral fundamental particle not electrically charged.

"This agrees with experimental data obtained previously with high voltage apparatus at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism in Washington, D. C., he declared. "Recent work of our experimental group at Wisconsin shows, however, that the distance within which two protons act on each other with constant potential energy cannot be so great as physicists had previously supposed, and it determines the exact force which finally propels them together."

### Force Discovered in 1934

The new atomic force which the Wisconsin physicists have been studying for the past two years was discovered in 1934, but until now, little has been definitely known concerning it. Previously, only two other kinds of force were known to mankind, gravitational force and electrical force.

Many scientists the world over have speculated concerning the possibility of some day harnessing the new force to mankind's use. Scientists now generally agree that the energy thrown out by the sun and the stars is the result of this new atomic force, which explains why such energy seems to be inexhaustible. All life on earth is dependent on the evolution of heat due to this force, which brings about formation of helium in the sun. The sun acts like a gigantic power plant burning hydrogen into helium and supplying heat to the earth.

### Has Enormous Power

To illustrate the enormous power of this new atomic force, if a pound of hydrogen were changed into helium, the energy resulting from the atomic action of these two forces would, if it could be harnessed, supply the University of Wisconsin with all its electric power for 50 years.

The University's "atom-busting" equipment which was used in this latest important experiment is located in the basement of Sterling Hall on the campus. It consists of a new type Van de Graaff electrostatic generator, which had already been developed at Wisconsin, and a 12-foot molded porcelain tube or proton gun, through which protons are strongly propelled by high voltage at a target of whatever element is to be disintegrated. Both the generator and proton gun are housed in a 20-foot steel tank, five and one-half feet in diameter.

## 4H Broadcast Will Feature 'Ranger Mac'

Wisconsin 4H clubs will hear related the life story of their assistant state leader at the University of Wisconsin, Wakelin McNeil, when they tune in for the "4H Club of the Air" program over state stations WHA and WLBL next Saturday, January 7.

Thousands of school children throughout the state know McNeil as "Ranger Mac," to whom he broadcasts regularly upon interesting things dealing with actual life, in the "School of the Air" series given over state radio stations.

The program, during which the story of McNeil will be told, is one in a series of personality sketches in Wisconsin 4H club work presented by the 4H club of the air broadcast by an organization of State University students every Saturday at 12:45 o'clock over the state stations.

## Extension Classes Remove Barriers To Educational Advance

"There appears to be good evidence that the freshman and sophomore credit extension classes have enrolled few students who could have afforded to go on to college anywhere except in University of Wisconsin extension classes," Dean Frank O. Holt said recently.

"Last year local school administrators were circularized to ascertain how many freshmen enrolled in extension classes could have gone away to college. On the basis of this inquiry it is fair to say that probably not more than 10 per cent of all the students in the class centers could have done so."

Further evidence of financial limitations of these students was revealed as the occupations of their fathers were examined. About one-half of the fathers of members of last year's freshman and sophomore classes in the various centers in the state were engaged in low-paying skilled or unskilled labor; 15 to 20 per cent were engaged in agricultural work; a small number were unemployed; and an appreciable proportion were engaged in governmental work, including WPA. Less than 10 per cent were engaged in professional or semi-professional occupations.

"It is the policy of the Extension division to advise all prospective students who can possibly afford to enter a regular college to do so," the Extension dean commented. "Such advice is rarely necessary, for the student who begins his college work in extension classes must sacrifice all extra-curricular activities, social life, and other campus activities that are so attractive in college life."

## Creative Writers In Dramatic Field Listed For Honors

Recalling the transition from a half dozen organized drama groups ten years ago to more than 100 throughout Wisconsin today, the Wisconsin Dramatic guild this month reviewed a decade of progress as it neared approach of the 11th annual play festival, set for March 22-26 at the University of Wisconsin. Original plays entered for awards will be received until Jan. 19.

"Today," commented Miss Ethel Rockwell, guild secretary, "the more than 100 little theater or community theater groups are proof of the steady growth of interest in dramatics throughout the state; hundreds of rural groups are including drama in their programs; almost every woman's club has a drama division; there are many church drama clubs, and work in play production has an increasingly important place in the schools."

This year the guild's activities will center around creative writing. The annual dinner, March 26, will honor leading literary personages of Wisconsin, with special recognition for playwrights. Among these are the following:

### Many to Attend

The late Mrs. Zona Gale Breee, considered one of the inventors of the one-act form and Wisconsin's only Pulitzer prize-winner; Edna Ferber, William J. McNally, Edward Rose;

## Pres. Dykstra Lists Six 'Imperatives' Which Must be Faced to Preserve Democracy, Responsible Government

The American people are in dire need of a social goal to which they can aspire with confidence, a governmental structure which can meet the people's strains and stresses of present and future, and a citizenship which can be trusted to act responsibly, C. A. Dykstra, president of the University of Wisconsin, told members of the American Political Science Association meeting in Columbus, Ohio, recently.

As president of the association, Mr. Dykstra delivered the presidential address on the subject, "The Quest for Responsibility," at the 34th annual meeting of the national group whose members are specialists in political science from colleges and universities in all parts of the country.

Delivering his address on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great English political scientist and statesman, James Bryce, noted author of "The American Commonwealth," Pres. Dykstra asked for a reconsideration of the well-known Bryce formula, "the cultivation of patient and impartial thought," in probing the difficulties facing the nation and the world today.

"We live today in a world which is still seeking a way of responsible action, and the difficulties involved have multiplied increasingly in the last quarter century," he explained. "The turn of the wheel has brought us to a series of experiments in group or collective responsibility throughout the world. We find ourselves and the world in a confusion which we do not seem to resolve—a fog which we cannot penetrate. We do not even find time to try the Bryce formula, 'the cultivation of patient and impartial thought.' And yet it was never more

### 'Witch Doctors' Everywhere

"On every hand are the witch doctors with their panaceas. On every rock sits a siren trying to take our minds captive. We ride wave upon

## Badger Farmers, Homemakers to Meet at U. Farm-Home Week Jan. 30-Feb. 3

Conferences devoted to timely and important farm and home problems will occupy the attention of Wisconsin farmers and homemakers when they meet for the 1939 state Farm and Home Week at the University of Wisconsin, January 30 to February 3.

Each of the five days will be devoted to consideration of special topics, announced Warren W. Clark, in charge of program arrangements. Monday, January 30, has been designated as Agricultural Conservation day; Tuesday, Dairy day; Wednesday, Live Stock Health day; Thursday, Farm Finance day; and Friday, Rural Life and Recreation day.

### National Leaders Speak

National and state agricultural leaders invited to confer with Wisconsin farmers during the week include R. M. Evans, Washington, D. C., administrator of the AAA; J. W. Bateman, Baton Rouge, director of the Louisiana Agricultural Extension Service; F. F. Hill, governor of the Farm Credit Administration, and H. G. Moulton, Brookings Institute, both of Washington, D. C.; Ralph Bridgeman, consultant in parent education, New York University; and Mrs. Raymond Sayre Home and Community chairman, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Included in the program for Badger homemakers are special sessions dealing with low-cost house construction, proper use of insulation, heating, lighting, and installation of water systems, as well as conferences on rural art, health education, and nutrition. Supplementing the women's program will be a series of home economics exhibits.

### Organizations Meet

Organizations which have scheduled meetings for the week include the Association of Peat Soil Farmers; Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, and Jersey breeders; Fox and Fur breeders; horse breeders, sheep and swine breeders; and crop growers. Scheduled during the week is a reunion of alumni of the short course in agriculture.

To permit consideration of detailed questions of concern to farm and home plans for 1939, special programs dealing with many important subjects have been planned. These include special

William Ellery Leonard and Mrs. Laura Sherry, founders of the Little Theater movement; Laurence Gross, a professional theater success; the Rev. H. E. Mansfield, Miss Mary Katherine Reely, Miss Calista Clark, Mrs. Sari Szekely, Mrs. Carl Felton, Prof. Warren Beck, Prof. Marcus Bach, Capt. Milton S. Agnew, Ralph Mead, Miss Beulah Charmley, Miss Helen Maurene Cotts, Miss Esther E. Olson, William B. Sears, Mrs. Carol McMillan Reid, Mrs. Volney G. Barnes, and Miss Ruth McKenna. Other guild playwrights also have achieved publication of one or more plays.

In the coming festival, the club winning first place in the production of an original play will be awarded a bronze medallion. In addition, special awards to playwrights in various classifications will be made.

An award of a silver coat of arms, offered by Phi Beta, will be made for the best original play presented during the festival week. The present holder is Dr. Harriet G. Anundsen, Monroe, the 1938 winner for her poetic fantasy, "The Song."

## Pres. Dykstra Lists Six 'Imperatives' Which Must be Faced to Preserve Democracy, Responsible Government

wave of popular passion, each more threatening than the last. Classes, groups, and special pleaders clash with each other in their efforts to control the common agents of collective action. Everywhere immediacy is in the saddle; we yield to the desires or needs of the moment. The future has no appeal, nor do we care for its promise. Today must fulfill our demands though the heavens fall. The result is that we are living recklessly and irresponsibly the world over."

### Gives Six "Musts"

Asserting that "we moderns attack no new problem when we set out again on the quest for responsibility," but that "we merely use new terms for old ideas," Pres. Dykstra outlined six "imperatives" which must be faced if democracy and responsible government are to be perpetuated. These were:

1. We must discover and proclaim a social and economic problem which will provide for Americans the essence of economic security and the personal freedoms which were inherent in our earlier system of democratic opportunity and as we supposed guaranteed by a responsible constitutional government;

2. We must accept the principle that the common agent of the popular will—the people's government—will be forced to undertake as public functions what the common need requires.

3. We must make a conscious and continuous attempt to adapt the structure of our government to the changing environment in which political institutions work.

4. We must recognize that, in spite of theoretical divisions of the field of governmental power, many of the problems facing our people have become national in their scope and they must be met in some large part by a national attack.

5. We must promote an understand-

sessions on agronomy, agricultural economics, farm engineering, livestock management; dairy herd improvement, dairy manufacture; insect problems, home economics, vegetable growing, poultry, rural life, soils, and veterinary science.

While attending Farm Week, Wisconsin farmers and homemakers will take occasion to extend honorary recognition to men and women who have made outstanding contributions to better life and living on the farm. This annual custom will be observed Monday evening, January 30.

A number of special features are planned for Farm and Home Week visitors. These include the state grain show, the state rural drama festival, a "Little International" livestock exposition, and an exhibit of fox pelts by the Wisconsin Fox and Fur Breeders' association.

## Nation's Charter

## Is Basis of New U. W. Study Program

Concerted study of the American constitution, as a step in strengthening popular concepts of free government under the democratic form, is proposed for Wisconsin people in a new University publication announced for distribution this week.

This publication is a compilation of selected references on the constitution as prepared by the University of Wisconsin committee for the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the constitution (Sept. 17, 1937, to April 30, 1939), and contains program suggestions made by the University Extension department of debating and public discussion. The purpose is to aid teachers, students, study groups, service clubs, and others in connection with a study of the national charter.

Nine topics relating to the making of the constitution and to the document's application to present conditions are listed as suggested program themes. For the development of programs of this kind much source material is cited. This is loaned in package libraries to Wisconsin applicants.

Pageants, dialogues, and orations for programs also are available through the loan library. Films on Alexander Hamilton, one of the Chronicles of American photo-dramas, in three reels, and a film on George Washington are obtainable from the University Extension bureau of visual instruction.

In a foreword Pres. C. A. Dykstra commends this study for high school students, suggesting that students present programs on the constitution before service clubs and other groups and that schools utilize opportunities for debates, papers, and brief theses on the general subject, based on the University-prepared references. State Supt. John Callahan also recommends the general use of the list by schools.

Copies of the study aid are being sent to public libraries and to colleges of Wisconsin high schools, teachers' colleges, and other educational agencies.

This is one of many study aid projects of the department of debating and public discussion, completed with WPA assistance.

## Plan to Celebrate 90th Birthday of U. W. February 6

Wisconsin and its State University will go on the air from coast to coast on Monday night, Feb. 6, with a half-hour radio program which will be the climax of the program celebrating the University of Wisconsin's 90th Founders' Day, according to an announcement made today by A. John Berge, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Alumni association at the University.

The nation-wide radio program will be the third annual Founders' Day broadcast which the alumni association has sponsored in the last three years as a highlight of the University's celebration of its anniversary. The program will be broadcast from 9:30 to 10 p. m. (CST) Feb. 6, over the red network of the National Broadcasting company, Mr. Berge announced.

The program will feature as speakers two of Wisconsin's foremost personalities—Gov. Julius Heil, who assumed office on Jan. 2, and Pres. C. A. Dykstra of the State University, Mr. Berge said. The University's student concert band of 100 pieces, under the direction of Prof. Raymond F. Dvorak, will provide the music for the program.

The program will go on the air from the Memorial Union building on the Wisconsin campus, following a faculty-alumni dinner to be held in the Union's Great Hall that evening. The speeches will be put on the air right from the speakers' table at the dinner, and the band will also broadcast from Great Hall, so that those attending the dinner will see and hear the entire program as it goes on the air.

Again this year, as in the past, Wisconsin alumni clubs in cities throughout the state and nation will hold Founders' Day dinners in their own communities at the same time that the campus dinner is being held in Madison, and following their own local programs, these distant alumni groups will tune in on the nation-wide Founders' Day program broadcast from the campus of their Alma Mater, Mr. Berge said.

The University of Wisconsin Founders' Day this year celebrates the 90th anniversary of the opening of the University's first class on Feb. 5, 1849, under the supervision of the University's first professor, John W. Sterling. The first class consisted of 17 students and its meeting place was a rented, red brick building erected in 1847 for the Madison "Female Academy."

## Six Erosion Districts Requested During Year By Wisconsin Farmers

Recognizing the need for cooperative local action in the control of soil erosion, Wisconsin farmers in six important erosion areas have during the past year voted favorably for the establishment of soil conservation districts, according to the state soil conservation committee.

Of the six districts already favorably voted upon, two have been definitely organized as districts. These are the Central Crawford county soil conservation district, comprising 47,000 acres, and the Beaver Creek soil conservation district in Trempealeau county, which comprises 28,000 acres. Four other districts in which farmers have voted favorably at referendum, but which await final committee action, include the Upper Pigeon Creek soil conservation district, comprising 31,000 acres in Jackson and Trempealeau counties; the Wilton soil conservation district, covering 43,000 acres in Monroe county; the Bostwick Valley Watershed soil conservation district, comprising over 27,720 acres in La Crosse county; and the Viola soil conservation district which includes 65,000 acres in Vernon and Richland counties.

Farmers in two additional areas have made application for the establishment of additional districts. One of these is Buffalo County No. 1 soil conservation district, comprising 44,000 acres. A referendum is scheduled to be held on this district January 12, 13, and 14. The other area is the Coon Creek soil conservation district, now serving as a demonstration area and comprising 92,000 acres in Vernon, La Crosse, and Monroe counties.

The purpose of organizing soil conservation districts according to the committee is to enable farmers to cooperate more fully in controlling soil erosion and to take advantage of federal and state aid in this work. A law passed by the Wisconsin legislature provides for the creation of a state soil conservation committee which entertains petitions from farmers for the establishment of soil conservation districts. The committee also reviews the vote of land occupiers whenever a referendum is held in the district. The wishes of the farmers as expressed in the referendum is the guiding factor in determining the committee's decision regarding the establishment of such districts.

Members of the state committees are: Chairman, Noble Clark, assistant director of the University of