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Progress of the Junior Academy of Science Movement

Louis A. Astell

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Address — The Chemist and the Cornstalk, Dr. F. E. Brown, Professor of Chemistry, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.
Presentation of Academy Trophy.

11:00 a.m.—Social Hour, Gymnasium of Teachers College High School.

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PROGRESS OF THE JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MOVEMENT

For the past three years, the Conference of State Academies of Science has officially considered the development of the Junior Academy movement. It is of interest to note that a number of State Academies are known to be considering Junior organizations or to have such organizations in various stages of development. These Academies lie in a more or less arc-like area through the United States. Beginning at the eastward, these Academies are known to include: North Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Brief summarizing statements of the relatively recent progress, as far as is known, are indicated below.

Mr. Karl F. Oerlein, the active science club sponsor of the Upper Darby Senior High School, (2) Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, presented a paper before the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, at the annual meeting during the Easter vacation just past, on the relationship of the Senior Academy to the local clubs. It is anticipated that the Pennsylvania Academy will begin its junior organization work in the immediate future.

Doctor H. E. Enders of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, is Chairman of the Committee on the Indiana Junior Academy of Science. The first annual meeting of the junior organization was held at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 5, 1931. The meeting was well attended and the interest shown was such that as many affiliations as could be handled efficiently by the new organization were being received. Among the noteworthy features of this Junior Academy is the

use of a member of the State Conservation Department to introduce the idea in high schools while on his regular itineraries.

Miss Mable A. Spencer, of the Granite City High School at Granite City, Illinois, is chairman of the Committee on High School Science Clubs in the Illinois State Academy of Science. During the last academic year, approximately 24 new science clubs were added to the roster. This brought the total of maintained affiliations above 50. These clubs are well distributed over the State. Because the forthcoming annual meeting of the Academy is to be held in Chicago, a number of new club affiliations from Chicago and the surrounding area are anticipated.

The second annual meeting of the Kansas Junior Academy of Science will be held at McPheison, Kansas, in April. This organization operates under a Committee of two college and four high school representatives. Doctor Hazel E. Branch of the University of Wichita at Wichita, Kansas, is Chairman of the Committee (3). Information concerning the Junior Academy has appeared in the Kansas Teacher. This feature is a part of the campaign for affiliations begun immediately after the holidays. Another feature for this work includes a short bibliography of literature among the service materials.

For a short time at least, efforts are to be directed toward teachers of secondary education rather than toward the affiliation of clubs. As a means of developing interest in the possibilities of the work information will be carried in the "Science Corner" of the Oklahoma Teacher. Doc. H. E. Warfel, former chairman of the Committee and now a member of the staff of Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Massachusetts, indicates that Professor O. M. Smith, Department of Chemistry, Oklahoma A. and M. College, is the Acting Chairman in charge of this work.

Doctor Clyde T. Reed, Texas College of Arts and Industries, is Chairman of the movement in Texas. As a background for the future developments in that State, Doctor Reed conducted a survey which was reported at the November meeting of the State Teachers Association. His findings were such that the Science Section

of the Association is to be more or less reorganized. As an outcome of the movement, this specific result is stimulating, as is the fact that key school systems of more than average size are to be encouraged in the initial steps of the organization. That so much solid information is being laid is worthy of note. If there have not been numerous affiliations of science clubs in any given state, it may be recalled that here as in other fields of human endeavor, immediate and expected results are not always ultimate gains.

In the light of this fragmentary evidence, it is apparent that this work, which may be justifiably designated as the Junior Academy of Science movement, is showing some very desirable results. By degrees, in such places as fits in with the immediate situation, and through evolutionary processes, the movement is serving to make more dynamic the things which teachers generally recognize as fundamental to the interests and welfare of coming generations. The science teachers of Iowa, through their outstanding interest and achievements are to be congratulated for the part they are taking in this movement. Their story is omitted from this account in order that it may be given more complete treatment by one thoroughly conversant with the situation, since such a treatment would be most beneficial to all concerned in Iowa.

The Bureau of Educational Research, College of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., is publishing a bulletin on "Science Clubs." This bulletin will contain an annotated bibliography of approximately 400 items, a chapter on "Some General Principles Related to High School Science Clubs," and a survey of science club practice in the secondary schools of Illinois. For further information address Doctor C. W. Odell, Assistant Director of the Bureau.

(1) Astell, L. A., How state academies of science may encourage scientific endeavor among high school students, *Science*, 71:445-449, May 2, 1930. This paper has been condensed from a paper presented at the meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, December 27, 1929.

(2) Oerlein, K. F., Science clubs

for service, *Sch. Sci. and Math.*, 31: 314-320, March, 1931, and personal correspondence, Feb. 9, 1932.

(3) Branch, H. E., The aims and opportunities of the Junior Academy in Kansas, Presidential address, delivered April 24, 1931, at Hayes, Kansas. *Transactions of the Kansas Academy*, 34:27-32, 1931.

Louis A. Astell.

Advisory Member, Committee on High School Science Clubs, Illinois State Academy of Science.

Note—Mr. Astell has been one of the leaders in Science Club work and especially in the Junior Academy work in the United States. He has been chairman of the Extension Committee in the organization of Junior Academies. A committee appointed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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SOME HIGH LIGHTS ON SCIENCE CLUB WORK

"The success of the club is of course more dependent upon the director than upon any other one factor. The director should take no active part during the meeting, except when it is necessary to carry the boys over what is to them an insurmountable difficulty—his frame of mind should be that of a man behind the scenes, who having set the stage stands by watching the performance, ever ready to step into a situation and set things right. The ability to do this properly comes with practice. It does not demand exceptional ability or personality—Next to efficient leadership, the successful club depends upon its program. In a sense, a well organized program can make up for inexperience or poor leadership."

—Dr. Morris Meister in "The Educational Value of Certain After-School Materials and Activities in Science," pages 159-60, New York; A. M. Porter, 1921.

"Not only does it make for better cooperation, for better demonstration work and for the building up of the science department, but it also sometimes results in a marked interest of a student in a vocation which may some day bring him back to his own school and make him a valued teacher in that institution."