Agronomic Affairs

FIRST MONOGRAPH PUBLISHED UNDER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY AUSPICES

EARLY in June publication of the first of a series of monographs prepared under the auspices of the American Society of Agronomy was announced. This marked the realization of plans long in preparation. For a number of years a committee of the Society, initially under the chairmanship of Dr. C. E. Kellogg, gave consideration to the need for authoritative monographs in English in some of the newer fields of agronomic science. The war delayed action in this matter until early 1947 when arrangements were entered into with the Academic Press, Inc., 125 East Third Street, New York 10, N. Y.

The first volume was prepared by Dr. C. E. Marshall and bears the title “The Colloid Chemistry of the Siliicate Minerals”. Dr. Marshall of the soils department, University of Missouri, is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and was President of the Soil Science Society in 1946. He has been active in research on the clay minerals for many years and his work has been widely recognized. His book is clear, comprehensive, and authoritative, and sets a high standard for the series. A critical review will appear in a later issue of this Journal.

The second monograph, now in preparation by a group under the chairmanship of Dr. Byron Shaw, will deal with the influence of physical factors in the soil on plant growth. It is expected that this may be published next spring.

Members of the Society may purchase these monographs at a discount if they place their orders directly with the publishers. A prospectus and order blank have been mailed to the membership; new members may obtain them from the Secretary-Treasurer.—A. G. Norman.

PLANS PROGRESSING FOR ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING IN MILWAUKEE

AGRONOMISTS all over the country are looking forward to the 1949 annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy in Milwaukee this fall. The event is scheduled for the last week in October.

Although the actual meetings will begin promptly on Tuesday morning, October 24, many agronomists are planning on being present for the 25th annual meeting of the National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application, which will be held the day before. In addition, the registration of members will begin Monday afternoon, October 24th, and it is expected that most of those attending will register either late Monday or early Tuesday.

Most of the meetings will be held in the Milwaukee Auditorium, a municipal building especially designed for conventions and public gatherings of various types. In addition to two large halls that seat up to 1,000 people each, the Society will have eight smaller meeting rooms for the numerous sectional and divisional meetings.

The annual banquet of the Society, which is the highlight of each convention, is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 26. Present plans are to hold it at the Hotel Schroeder, which is only 2 blocks from the convention headquarters at the Auditorium.

A local arrangements committee headed by Dr. John H. Parker, Midwest Barley Improvement Association, is working out plans for tours and special events. Visits to several industrial plants and other places of interest to the agronomists will be scheduled.

Members of the Society and their friends are urged to make hotel reservations at an early date. A letter to this effect, accompanied by appropriate information on Milwaukee accommodations and an application blank, was sent to all members of the Society in June.—L. G. Montthey, Executive Secretary.

INDIANA SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY IS ACTIVE

DURING the last year, members of the Indiana Soil Science Society have profited from the program of visiting lecturers who were invited to Purdue University as outstanding authorities in their respective fields of soil science.

Dr. C. D. Jeffries presented a series of lectures on the study and identification of soil minerals of the clay and larger fractions. The value and limitations of the studies with the petrographic microscope were discussed. The latest devices and methods of X-ray analysis in the identification of clay minerals were described. A summary of the studies on thermal analysis of clays at Pennsylvania State was presented.

Dr. C. G. Stephens, senior officer in charge of soil surveys in the Division of Soils at Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Adelaide, South Australia, presented an illustrated lecture on the soils of Australia. He is an authority on Laterite soil formations and described the fossil Laterites found in the desert areas of Australia. He described the soil regions of Australia and explained the impact of climate upon the soil formations of that continent.

Dr. W. D. Ellison of the Soil Conservation Service, with headquarters in Beltsville, Md., discussed splash erosion and the effect of raindrops upon the detachment of soil particles. He presented motion pictures of splash erosion. Dr. L. A. Dean of the soils section of the