CORN BELT BRANCH MEETS AT URBANA, ILLINOIS

L. M. Turk, head of the department of soil science at Michigan State College, was named president of the Corn Belt Branch of the American Society of Agronomy at the group's annual summer meeting June 14–15 at Urbana, Ill. D. R. Dodd, extension agronomist, Ohio State University, was named secretary.

N. J. Volk, assoc. director, Experiment Station, Purdue University, was nominated by the section for vice-president of the national society. R. J. Muckenhirn, department of soils, University of Wisconsin, was elected councilor for the branch.

W. W. Wozella, head of the department of agronomy, South Dakota State College, and L. B. Nelson, soil scientist for the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, were nominated for councilors-at-large for the national society.

A total of 292 registered for the meeting at Urbana, where they attended general sessions and visited experimental laboratories and field plots at the University of Illinois. A special tour of other experimental areas in southern Illinois was arranged for the group on June 16 and 17, following the general meeting.

WESTERN BRANCH ELECTS HILL PRESIDENT

MEMBERS of the Western Branch of the American Society of Agronomy elected D. D. Hill, head of the farm crops department, Oregon State College, as their president for the coming year at the group's summer business meeting June 21 at Pullman, Wash.

Other officers elected for the coming year were: vice-president, R. W. Woodward, agronomy department, Utah State Agricultural College, and secretary, Robert W. Allard, agronomy department, University of California, Davis.

The western group nominated for councilors-at-large for the national society, Harlan Stevens, USDA agronomist, Aberdeen Substation, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, and F. N. Briggs, department of agronomy, University of California, Davis. As vice-president for the national society, the group nominated K. H. Klages, head, department of agronomy, University of Idaho College of Agriculture.

Western Branch meetings this year were held at Pullman, Wash., and Moscow, Idaho, with a total attendance of 137. P. V. Cardon, special assistant to the chief, U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, delivered the banquet address, talking on the responsibilities of administration in research.—Alvin G. Law.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE annual meeting of the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council was held in Washington, May 5, 1949. In his opening remarks, Ralph E. Cleland, chairman, emphasized the important rôle of the Research Council in forwarding the aims and purposes of biologists and societies of biologists.

The Division sometime ago established an Agricultural Board. Some support for its activities is being had from industry. The Board is dealing mainly with the nutrition of farm animals and with milk sanitation.

The Food and Nutrition Board has been very active, and reports on its work have been important in the nutrition field.

The Institute of Biological Sciences has completed some 15 months of active work since its organization in February 1948. This work includes service activities, such as business management and publication for the individual societies, and help with handling the details of their annual meetings. A scheme is underway for the publication of a Handbook of Biological Data to be something like the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics. It is felt this job may take several years and cost finally something like $200,000. Ultimately it will include data on biology in its broadest sense.

Special attention was given to the work of the Selective Service Committee of the Institute. This committee, working with other scientists, developed a set of principles for the deferment of students of good scholarship in all the principal disciplines. Each student must pass a satisfactory intelligence examination when subject to draft. For deferment, a freshman must be in the upper one-half of the class, a sophomore in the upper two-thirds, and a junior in the upper three-fourths.

Besides this, Dr. Nicholas will act as chairman of a committee to advise the Armed Forces on improved plans for the better use of biologists and related scientists in the military services.

It was noted that there are about 15,000 members of the Institute, including about 3,000 duplications.

Some of the older committees of the Division were abolished, some reconstituted, and it was voted to establish a new committee on Agricultural Conservation.

A brief review of the UNESCO conferences was