

## REPORT

### FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PLANT PHENOLICS GROUP OF NORTH AMERICA

THE young Plant Phenolics Group of North America held its Fifth Annual Meeting at the Western Regional Research Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Albany, California, August 22-25. Program topics, on a comparative biochemical theme, ranged from the physiological effects of light on the sex cycles of sheep and flowers to the chemical effects of such substances as adrenaline, LSD, flower pigments, woody substance of trees, and allergens in clinical tests on patients and passively immunized monkeys. Phenolic compounds make up as much as a third of the dry weight of trees. Fly-speck amounts of LSD or psilocybin from mushrooms can cause hallucinations and severe mental disorder in human beings. Related compounds also function as "chemical messengers" (hormones) and in enzyme systems in plants and animals, with dramatic effects on metabolism. An example of progress in phenolic chemistry is the recently acquired ability to stabilize red and blue flower pigments by mild chemical treatment.

Plans are under way for publication of the symposium presented during the meeting on "Phenolic Compounds in Metabolic Regulation". Authors of the six symposium papers are Dr. Karl Folkers, Stanford Research Institute; Dr. John Daly, National Institutes of Health; Dr. Ernest Sondheimer, College of Forestry, Syracuse University; Dr. Milton Zucker, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. R. K. Boutwell, University of Wisconsin; and Dr. Bernard J. Finkel, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Albany, California.

The make-up of PPGNA is an interdisciplinary group of chemists, biochemists, and food processors working in U.S. Departments of Agriculture, universities, and commercial areas such as tobacco, vitamins, tea and others. Their common interest is the chemistry of naturally occurring derivatives of phenol. Many hundreds of such phenolic compounds, of various complexity, occur in nature. Total membership in U.S.A., Canada and foreign research centers has grown to 147.

The PPGNA will hold its Sixth Annual Meeting, April 6-8, 1966, at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

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