

REPORT

THE CHEMISTRY and biochemistry of plant phenolics was the theme of the Annual Symposium and Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America, held at the Banff School of Fine Arts, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 19–22 August 1969. Nine symposium papers and twenty-nine contributed papers were presented.

A unique aspect of biosynthesis was discussed in two papers concerned with evolution. J. B. Harborne (University of Reading) traced the *Evolution of Flavonoids* in the phylogenic scheme, while S. M. Siegel (University of Hawaii) described some novel experiments related to the *Evolution of Lignin*. The *Biological Oxidation of Lignin Phenols* was shown to occur via stable phenoxy radicals by Cornelius Steelink (University of Arizona). Another important degradative mechanism in plants was outlined by G. H. N. Towers (University of Vancouver) in the *Degradative Metabolism of Phenylalanine, Tyrosine and DOPA*. Two critical steps in the biosynthesis of cinnamyl alcohols were elucidated. M. H. Zenk (Ruhr University) described the enzyme systems responsible for the *Enzymic Reduction of Cinnamic Acids* which lead stepwise to aldehydes and then alcohols. K. R. Hanson (Connecticut Agr. Exp. Station) presented the results of some elegant work on the *Mechanism and Properties of L-Phenylalanine Ammonia-Lyase from Higher Plants*. Coumarin chemistry was the subject of two papers. C. F. Van Sumere (University of Ghent) discussed *Biochemical Studies in Relation to the Possible Germination Regulatory Role of Naturally-Occurring Coumarins and Phenolics*. Feeding experiments helped establish the central role of mevalonic acid in the *Biosynthesis of Furanocoumarins*, as described by H. G. Floss (Purdue University). The final paper was appropriately entitled *The Future of Phytochemistry* by Tom Mabry (University of Texas). These papers will appear in a forthcoming volume of *Advances in Phytochemistry*, published by Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York.

New officers for the Society were elected:

President: Peyton C. Teague, University of South Carolina

Vice President: T. C. Tso, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Maryland

Secretary: Cornelius Steelink, University of Arizona

Treasurer: H. E. Wright, Jr., Richmond, Virginia

With a deep sense of loss, the executive board of the Society wishes to report that Dr. Margaret K. Seikel died on 30 July 1969. Dr. Seikel was one of the founders of the PSNA and an internationally known phytochemist.

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University of Arizona,
Tucson, U.S.A.

CORNELIUS STEELINK,
Secretary