

# Research in Biology Keeps 8 Grads Busy

Biology has become far more than a requirement for a degree to the eight graduate students who claim 222 Bessey as their headquarters. The "science of life" is really a life for them.

Along with zoological specimens in their cluttered office are all the comforts of home. Some of the more earnest workers cook their own lunches—which are built around the constant noodle soup. There's always coffee, too, for afternoon guests—if they care for a drink strong enough to replace formaldehyde as a preservative.

### Fruitfly Flies.

In this pleasant atmosphere an amazing amount of very serious research goes on. Several of the students, for example, are working with an insect far smaller than his pretentious name. *Drosophila affinis*, commonly known as the fruitfly, he has played an important part in the development of the science of genetics, because his hereditary characteristics are so easily traced. With a two week life cycle and 5 pairs of chromosomes (in contrast to man's 48 pairs), *Drosophila's* heredity and existence are relatively simple.

One man has countless glass vials neatly labeled, which contain *Drosophila* from three different localities. He is studying the possibility that sexual isolation exists between strains of the species. Or, to put it more simply, he is trying to find out why the Henry (Nebr.) *Drosophila* will have nothing to do with his relatives from Huskerville and why both midwestern varieties consistently ignore cousins from Woodsdale, Mass.

### Genes Studied.

Another problem in connection with particular chromosomes (which bear the genes, which, in turn, carry the hereditary characteristics). In *Drosophila*, the chromosomes in the salivary glands are 100 times as large as elsewhere in the body. This is very convenient because it is necessary to separate the chromosomes to study the gene sequence. That's the point at which even a 5 chromosome-pair creature seems extremely complicated. It takes some pretty handy work with tiny instruments even to get at the chromosomes, and some very delicate study to get information about them.

A parasitologist has set herself the tremendous task of identifying and classifying all the Trematoda (parasite flatworms like the liver fluke, that is) in Nebraska. Another worker is concerned with the parasites which spend part of their lives in farm animals and part with some other form of life. Her problem is to determine the part earthworms, cockroaches, slugs or other lower animals play as hosts.

### "Rat Girl."

One young scientist, jokingly called "the girl with the rats," has her little "pets" carefully caged in a third floor room. In the place are two kinds of rats—hooded and albino—along with a number of ground squirrels. The ground squirrels are noisy little creatures at times; they whistle when they want service—and they expect immediate attention.

A histologist, or tissue specialist, is busy studying certain fish which retain their eggs instead of spawning them. He knows now what happens to the eggs—they are broken down and absorbed by the fish—but he is looking for an answer to the age-old question, "Why?"

### Questions Answered.

These, and a great many other University students, are seeking answers to the "whys" through a wide variety of scientific research programs. The additional money, which the proposed 20% budget increase would bring, would make possible far more extensive study.

In comparison with other universities the Nebraska graduate student, who is doing part-time research, is underpaid. He receives an average salary of \$1,000 to \$1,200. The typical Big Seven university pays him \$900 to \$1,000; the typical Big Nine university pays him \$1,200 to \$1,400.

Inflation has greatly increased the cost of research equipment. For example, in 1940, a microscope cost \$155; in 1946 it cost \$222; in 1947 it cost \$267. More money is needed if the University is to continue this, the largest research program in its history.

Testing the theory that a certain history prof doesn't bother to read reports, but grades them by weighing them on a scale, a sophomore inserted this in the middle of his term paper: "If you read this far, I'll buy you a coke."

He got the report back marked, "C—I did, is 4:30 this afternoon O. K.?"

# Dr. Wimberly Edits English Lit Anthology

Dr. Lowry C. Wimberly, professor in English, is a co-editor of "Dominant Types in British and American Literature," a text unique in that it enables students to contrast modern and older literature. British and American, in ample quantity in one anthology.

The other editors are Dr. William H. Davenport, professor of English at the University of Southern California, and Harry Shaw, humanities editor for Harper and Brothers. The book was published by Harper and Brothers.

The philosophy of the text is set forth in the preface: "It is the feeling of the editors that an introductory course for the general student should be based on a different principle from that of a course for future majors; the course for the general student is a place to woo the uninitiated into the company of believers. The ideal study materials, then, must be sound enough, but also, relatively speaking, appealing in their own right. Some 'classic' material must be left out or de-emphasized because presumably the student may not be ready for it; and there can be little good in forced feeling if only regurgitation is to result."

## NU Bulletin Board Wednesday

YM cabinet meeting at 6 p.m. in the lounge in the Temple building.

Meeting of Phalanx, 7:30 a.m. in the Armory.

Nu-Med meeting, 7:30 p.m., Parlors A and B of the Union. Prof. Frederick J. Ludwig will speak on "Medical Jurisprudence."

Playwright's Matinee on KOLN at 4:30 p.m.

### Thursday

Authors of the Ages, dramatization of "Dan Peters and Casey Jones," by Schram, at 9:30 p.m. on KFOR.

Kosmet Klub activities meet at 5 p.m. in Room 307, Union.

Tickets for the Business Administration banquet to be held April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom are still on sale at the booth on second floor of Social Science hall.

# Nutrition Expert To Speak at Ag

Dr. Hazel Stiebeling, Chief of U. S. Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will speak at an Ag convocation Thursday in Room 306 Ag Hall from 11:15 a. m. to 12 noon.

Dr. Stiebeling, who is also a member of FAO's Advisory Committee on Nutrition, will speak on "Nutrition as it is Related to Agriculture and World Problems." She will also show slides on the subject.

Dr. Stiebeling is coming to the campus for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Home Economics department which will be held this weekend.

# One Query Easy In Temple Exam

Once in a while humor turns up even in such unexpected places as the ivied halls of higher learning.

While taking a mid-term examination recently, Temple University students came across this question:

"One gets lonely while thinking by himself and finds solace in resting his eyes on someone else's paper. True or false?"

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