ECHOES FROM THE NASHVILLE MEETING

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of "The Potato Association of America", which was held at Nashville, Tennessee, December 28 to 30, proved to be one of the most interesting meetings ever held by the Association. The attendance, however, was somewhat disappointing, but this was somewhat compensated for by the interest taken in the papers by those who were present. All of the sessions with the exception of the joint meeting with the Phytopathological Society, were held in the Home Economics Building of the George Peabody College for Teachers. The first session of the meeting which was held on the afternoon of December 28th, was opened with an address of welcome by Dr. Kary C. Davis who welcomed the Association on behalf of Nashville and the College. This was followed with a suitable response on behalf of the Association by President H. C. Moore of East Lansing, Mich., after which the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the American Potato Journal were given. Following these business reports were those of the standing committees on Research, Varietal Nomenclature and Strain Testing and Seed Certification, which occupied the remainder of the session.

The Thursday forenoon session was devoted to a symposium on the general subject of "Potato Storage and Marketing". One of the most interesting of these papers was that by R. C. Wright and W. M. Peacock of the United States Department of Agriculture regarding the effect of cold on potatoes stored immediately after harvesting. A careful study of the effect of different temperatures and humidities on the vitality of the tubers and the healing over of wound injuries indicated that at temperatures below 50 degrees F. more or less injurious effects were obtained. At 32 degrees F. the injury was quite severe even to the extent of killing a large proportion of the eye buds, so that no germination was obtained from many of them and others were so weakened that they did not produce a strong healthy sprout. Marked shrivelling and even decay
in many instances resulted from injuries. At 36 degrees the injury while not quite so severe was still sufficiently marked to cause serious loss either for table or seed purposes. At 40 degrees, which has generally been recognized as a suitable temperature for the early storage period, a considerable amount of injury was still noticeable. In a temperature of 50 degrees with suitable humidity no eye injury was noticeable and the healing over of wound surfaces was nearly, if not quite, perfect. At temperatures of 60 degrees and 70 degrees F. with proper humidity the healing of wound injuries was somewhat more rapid and more nearly perfect.

High humidity was found to favor suberization of wound surfaces, while low humidities retarded or prevented it.

In a second paper by the above authors it was shown that by subjecting seed potatoes to higher temperatures and humidities than that in which they have been carried through the storage period, for a period of two or three weeks prior to planting, quicker germination, earlier maturity and larger yields were secured.

Dr. C. O. Appleman of the University of Maryland presented an interesting paper based on results obtained from a comparative study of varieties with respect to physiological shrinkage in storage. It was shown that certain varieties lose more water and carbon dioxide in storage than do other varieties under identical environmental conditions. It was further evident that the greatest loss occurred during the first few weeks of storage, and that this loss was proportionate to a certain extent at least, to the degree of maturity of the tubers when harvested. The less mature the tubers the higher were the weight shrinkages.

Some interesting data were presented in cooperative marketing and shipping point inspection by A. W. McKay and F. G. Robb of the United States Department of Agriculture.

A joint session was held Thursday afternoon with the American Phytopathological Society to afford the members of the Association an opportunity of listening to papers dealing with potato diseases, insect transmission of virus diseases and the effect of screen inclosures for excluding insects together with the windbreak effect of wire screening on the general growth of the inclosed plants.

Dr. B. L. Richards' paper on "Yellows" discussed a new and destructive disease of the potato. In this paper the author showed the relationship of the "Hopping Louse" to the spread of this disease. In some sections of Utah according to Dr. Richards, the early potato crop was so seriously injured by "Yellows" that it was not worth harvesting. The late crop was also affected but not to the same degree.

The forenoon session on Friday was devoted to a series of papers on seed treatment and disease control methods. Two rather interesting papers were read on seed treatment, while a third, owing to absence of the author, was read by title only. In the first of these papers, prepared jointly by G. F. Niles and C. R. Orton,