Installation of Sigma Xi

National president here for exercises

At the symposium and conference which followed, both of the installing officers answered numerous questions concerning the operation of the Sigma Xi chapter in a detailed and very helpful manner.

The president then called upon Doctor Gould to present the report of the committee on nominations, which was as follows: For president of the chapter, Dr. William Schriever; for vice-president, Dr. Alma J. Neill; for secretary-treasurer, Dr. L. E. Swearingen. A unanimous ballot was cast for the new board of executive officers. Upon being called to the chair, President Schriever expressed the appreciation of the group of petitioners of the award of the chapter and pledged the chapter to promote, in every possible way, the spirit of research in the university. After adopting the report of the committee on constitution and by-laws which was presented by Doctor Gould, the chapter gave an unanimous vote of thanks to the installing officials for their services, and then adjourned.

The annual Sigma Xi dinner was held in honor of the installing officers and guests in the Great Hall of the Faculty club at 6 o'clock. Following the dinner the toast list was presided over by President Schriever. In introducing Doctor Bizzell, president of the university, the toastmaster took the opportunity of transmitting to him the sincere thanks, from each member of the new chapter, for his sincere and continued interest, and for aiding the Sigma Xi group by every means at his command. President Bizzell brought greetings from the university and pledged its support of research in every department. Dr. C. N. Gould, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey and one of the original members of the Sigma Xi club, responded for the new chapter.

President Stewart, the last speaker, responded for the society of the Sigma Xi.

The first public meeting of the Oklahoma chapter of Sigma Xi was given over to a lecture on, "Heredity as We See It Today" by Doctor Cole. This interesting and instructive lecture, which was held in the engineering auditorium at 8:15 o'clock, was illustrated by beautiful lantern slides.

Important additions to the regular program took place the preceding day when both of the installing officers lectured to a special group on their own important researches. Professor Stewart gave an illustrated lecture on "The Nature of the Liquid State" to a large audience in the main physics lecture room at the time of the regular physics colloquium. Professor Cole talked to a large group of biologists at the same hour in the main zoology lecture room on "Hybridization and Sex-Determination in Pigeons." Both lectures were enthusiastically received.

Professor Stewart and his wife, Dr. Zella White Stewart, were the house guests of Dean and Mrs. H. L. Dodge, who on Monday entertained with a luncheon at which members of the staff of the physics department were guests. In the afternoon, Mrs. Dodge entertained with a tea in honor of Mrs. Stewart. Professor Cole was the guest of Professor and Mrs. A. Richards who on Monday had as their luncheon guests the members of the staff of the department of zoology. Professor and Mrs. Stewart and Professor Cole were the honored guests at a formal dinner on Monday at the home of Professor and Mrs. Schriever who were assisted by Professor and
Mrs Richards. Following the dinner a large number of friends called to meet the guests.

The first Sigma Xi Club was organized at the university in February 1915 by eleven members of Sigma Xi. After functioning for one year activities ceased until the fall of 1921 when the club was reorganized with twenty-two resident members. This club enjoyed a steady and continuous growth until this year when there were forty-seven members.

A very important service, which the club rendered to the university, was to give President Buchanan such support that he was able to set aside $1,000 of university funds for graduate scholarships in the natural sciences. This fund, which has since been multiplied, is now appropriated each year for, what are now called, research scholarships and research fellowships. These are available in every department of the university offering graduate work.

The last important service rendered to the university was the taking of the numerous steps which were necessary for meeting the requirements for a chapter of Sigma Xi. A long, detailed, informal report was prepared during 1927-28 and submitted to the executive committee which met in Chicago in the spring of 1928. During the following school year an official visitor was entertained; he reported his findings to the executive committee which met in New Haven in April, 1929. Since both of these committees reported favorably the club was asked to submit a formal printed petition to the national convention of the Sigma Xi which met in Des Moines on December 28, 1929. At this convention the University of Oklahoma was given a unanimous vote of approval.

Since that time negotiations have been under way which resulted in the formal installation of the Oklahoma chapter of the Sigma Xi on April 8, 1930.

Who are the chosen?

Chapel address during Sigma Xi installation

By Dr. G. W. Stewart, President of Sigma Xi

TODAY, as you know, will be installed here a chapter of Sigma Xi. This society is devoted to the promotion of research. While limited to scientific research, it is deeply conscious that creative work is much alike in all fields. Creation requires a high type of ability. The activity of our society is but one indication of the increasing emphasis upon ability. I refer to innate gifts, that which cannot be attributed to environment. Education everywhere is stressing attention to differences in this quality. We are made conscious of the superior chance of those of high innate ability. So great is the emphasis that many of the students here before me would have good reason to be discouraged. The average student may well ask, what opportunity is there for me in competition with those whose mental qualities give them a clear advantage? Are not these superior ones really the "chosen"? I propose to answer these two questions.

But first let it be emphasized that I can find no satisfaction in attempting to minimize the difference in mental ability between the average person and those in the uppermost five per cent. That difference is truly great. We have one or two very fast hundred yard dash men in college today. They can run that distance in 9.6 seconds. How fast are you? You may have a very good ten second sprinter has been shown to have a high correlation to success in class room in college. Thus it is that graduate colleges award fellowships and scholarships chiefly to those who have made the highest records in college. Everywhere we are made conscious of the superior chance of those of high innate ability. So great is the emphasis that many of the students here before me would have good reason to be discouraged. The average student may well ask, what opportunity is there for me in competition with those whose mental qualities give them a clear advantage? Are not these superior ones really the "chosen"? I propose to answer these two questions.

But first let it be emphasized that I can find no satisfaction in attempting to minimize the difference in mental ability between the average person and those in the uppermost five per cent. That difference is truly great. We have one or two very fast hundred yard dash men in college today. They can run that distance in 9.6 seconds. How fast are you? You may have a very good ten second sprinter...