

Charles E. Olmsted, President 1960

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President Charles Olmsted

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New Members

PRESIDENT CHARLES E. OLMSTED

Our new President is Chairman of the Department of Botany at the University of Chicago. Born at Holyoke, Colorado in 1908, he grew up in eastern Nebraska and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in 1929. At this institution he received a double infusion of ecology, taking his general botany from Paul Sears and his ecology from J. E. Weaver. Moving on to the University of Oklahoma, he received his Master's degree in 1931 in morphology under Adriance Foster but was closely associated with Paul Sears and A. O. Weese in ecology. He received his Doctor's degree under George Nichols at Yale University in 1936.

Charles began his professional connections with his appointment as Coulter Fellow at the University of Chicago in 1933, and in 1934 he succeeded H. C. Cowles and G. D. Fuller, accepting an appointment as instructor in charge of plant ecology. He has been in the Botany Department since that time becoming full professor in 1948 and chairman in 1953.

His recognition as a talented teacher and productive scholar in plant ecology is reflected by his research affiliations at the University of Arizona in 1939-40, visiting professorship at the University of Southern California in 1951 and professor at the University of Wyoming Science Summer Camp in 1941 and 1959. He has represented the field of plant ecology in three National Science Foundation-sponsored Summer Institutes for college instructors.

Dr. Olmsted's research interests and those of his students have been broadly diversified but have reflected a major interest in physiological ecology. His work on photoperiodic races in grasses is an outstanding contribution to our growing knowledge of genecology. To these must be added contributions in vegetation-soil relationships and physiological ecology of trees.

Another dimension of a scientist is his contribution to professional organizations. Charles has served many in important capacities including: Botanical Editor of **Ecology**, 1942-46; editor of **The Botanical Gazette**, 1946-59; Chairman, Publication Committee of our Society, 1949-53; our Vice-president 1949; Member of the Board of Directors of The Grassland Research Foundation, 1942-; member of Board of Scientific Governors of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, 1945-54, 1959-. In addition he is a member of other professional organizations including: Botanical Society of America, American Society of Naturalists, Conference of Biological Editors and American Society of Plant Physiologists.

We welcome our new President and take pleasure in introducing him to those members who have not already met him.