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Iowa Science Teachers Meeting Held in Pella at Central College

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and spore sowing, the flower pot is covered with a glass plate. With either method it may be necessary to add a 0.01% potassium permanganate solution to prevent "damping off" by fungi.

Another method consists of preparing a block of plaster of Paris to be placed in a saucer filled with nutrient solutions under an inverted bell jar. When the piece of plaster of Paris has hardened it should be washed thoroughly with the nutrient solution before sowing the fern spores.

Bold prefers to grow the gametophytes in petri dishes on an inorganic medium solidified with 1.5% agar. He then transfers the prothallia with young sporophytes to fresh petri dishes for further study.

Fern prothallia may also be grown on the surface of nutrient solutions or water. Various containers may be used such as stacking finger bowls. However, with this method it is important to thin out clumps of prothallia in order to arrive at the sporophyte stage.

A simple and inexpensive method has been developed and used extensively by Mr. William Shimitz at the University of Iowa Plant House. Plastic half-gallon ice cream cartons serve as convenient moist chambers. The

containers are filled two-thirds full with peat, the peat is then packed firmly and moistened thoroughly. The spores are then sown, the plastic lid replaced, and the container placed in an area of indirect sunlight. The snug fit of the plastic lid prevents evaporation, and eliminates further additions of water. The moisture within the carton is usually sufficient for fertilization to occur. The developing young sporophytes can grow within the container for a considerable length of time due to the stability of the medium and availability of space.

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IOWA SCIENCE TEACHERS MEETING HELD IN PELLA at Central College

Richard Sweeney, Secretary of ISTA, presided at the Spring meeting at Pella. Among the items for consideration by the Executive Board were the Fall Meeting, and the proposed complete merger of ISTA with the Iowa Academy of Science. The Board voted to become an official section of the Iowa Academy of Science. Among other benefits, the Iowa Science Teacher's JOURNAL will become a 32-page publication, with copies going to all Iowa Academy members as well as to only ISTS members. The Fall Meeting will be held at the time of the ISEA Convention, which is to be the third weekend in October.