

extent. Geological literature is of too great bulk for the working geologist to attempt to ascertain whether or not names which he proposes to use have been preoccupied. To illustrate what the present system is leading to, a few instances of some prominence will be cited.

In 1883 Hague described, in a report of the U. S. Geological Survey, the Eureka quartzite, a sub-division of the Silurian, in the Eureka district, Nevada. In 1891 Simonds and Hopkins, in a report of the Arkansas Geological Survey, used the name Eureka shale for a supposed Devonian horizon; while in 1898 Haworth, in a report of the Kansas Geological Survey, proposes the name Eureka limestone as a sub-division of the Coal Measures.

In 1879 Peale, in the 11th Annual Report of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, employed the term Cache Valley Group for a sub-division of the Pleistocene of Utah. Becker described, in 1888, the Cache Lake beds of California, in Monograph XIII of the U. S. Geological Survey, and referred them to the Tertiary. In 1896 G. M. Dawson, in a report of the Canada Geological Survey, uses the name Cache Creek formation for an horizon of the Carboniferous to include strata described by Selwyn in 1872 as Upper and Lower Cache Creek beds.

In 1842-46 Emmons, Vanuxem and Mather employed, the term Erie division as a sub-division of the New York system. In the Ohio Geological Survey reports, the Erie clay was used as a sub-division of the Pleistocene, and Erie shale was referred both to the Carboniferous and Devonian. In 1875 Lesley described, in a report of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, the Erie shale, which he referred to the Silurian. In 1898 Haworth described the Erie limestone of the Coal Measures of Kansas. The above references are given merely to illustrate the confusion that is likely to arise from use of new geographic terms if the literature is not carefully examined for previous use.

For the past eighteen months the writer has been engaged in preparing a card catalogue of geologic formation names, during such time as could be taken from other office and field work. This catalogue has already assumed considerable proportions, and is now being consulted by

those geologists who are aware that such a work is being prosecuted. While preparing the annual bibliography of geological literature for 1898 the writer has found several instances of duplication of names that have become well established in geologic nomenclature. It will probably be a year or more before this catalogue can be published, and, in the meantime, to assist in avoiding such duplication, the writer offers to furnish geologists who will correspond with him such information as he possesses regarding names which they propose to use as formation names.

F. B. WEEKS.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE BERLIN TUBERCULOSIS CONGRESS.*

THE German Central Committee for the erection of Sanitaria for Consumptives have issued a call for a Congress to be held in Berlin, Germany, May 24-27, 1899, for the purpose of discussing the subject of tuberculosis. The Congress will meet in the new building of the Imperial Diet and is under the patronage of Her Majesty, The Kaiserin, while Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, will serve as Honorary President. All of the German States, also local authorities, medical faculties and societies, and all corporations interested in fighting tuberculosis, have been requested to send delegates, and all foreign countries represented at the Imperial Court have also been invited to take part. The United States Embassy has been requested to extend a cordial invitation to American physicians to become members of the Congress, and the same invitation has been extended through other missions to physicians of other nationalities.

As a basis for discussion papers will be presented as follows: (1) 'Distribution and extent of tuberculosis' by Geheimrath Koehler, Director of the Imperial Health Office, and Geheimrath Krieger, of Strassburg; (2) 'Etiology,' by Professors Robert Koch and B. Fraenkel, of Berlin; (3) 'Prophylaxis,' by Pro-

* Written at the request of Dr. Pannwitz, General Secretary of the Congress, and forwarded simultaneously to several American journals. The medical, veterinarian and scientific press is requested to call the attention of its readers to this Congress.

fessor Gerhardt and Generaloberarzt Schjerning, of Berlin; (4) 'Therapy,' by Professor von Ziemssen, of Munich, and Professor Schroetter, of Vienna; (5) 'Sanitaria,' by Herr Gaebel, President of Imperial Insurance Office, Berlin, and Dr. Dettweiler, of Falkenstein.

Following the presentation of the two leading papers (limited to 20 minutes each) in the respective divisions, there will be a general discussion, speakers being limited to 10 minutes each. All papers and remarks are to be in German, although the chairman is empowered to make exceptions during the general discussion.

All persons interested in the subject of tuberculosis are eligible for membership; membership cards (20 Marks, nearly \$5) are to be obtained at the office of the Congress ('Bureau des Organisations-Komites, Wilhelm Platz 2, Berlin, W') and entitle the holder to a copy of the 'Proceedings.' An early registration is requested.

The writer has been requested to furnish a list of Americans to whom special invitations to the Congress should be sent. He has complied with this request, so far as his personal and professional acquaintance with specialists in this line has permitted, and has also suggested to the committee that invitations be sent to the various medical societies and faculties. There are undoubtedly many American practitioners especially interested in tuberculosis and possibly some laboratory workers whom he has overlooked. Should any such person desire to attend the Congress, yet prefer to receive a personal invitation, the writer will be pleased to forward the name of such persons, upon proper introduction, to the Executive Committee of the Congress. As 'proper introduction' will be considered a letter from any recognized medical, scientific or veterinary faculty or society.

CH. WARDELL STILES, PH.D.,

Scientific Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Berlin, Germany.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

THE RUTHERFURD PHOTOGRAPHS.

AMONG recent additions to the literature of the astronomy of precision are four contributions from the Observatory of Columbia University which give the results of measurements of the Rutherford plates. Dr. Davis contributes

three of these, entitled 'Catalogue of Sixty-five Stars Near 61 Cygni,' 'The Parallaxes of 61¹ and 61² Cygni,' 'Catalogue of Thirty-four Stars near Bradley 3077.' Mr. Schlesinger contributes the fourth, upon 'The Præsepe Group.' All these are most admirable illustrations of the highest type of astronomical work in the determination of exact positions of the stars, and careful deductions therefrom. No pains have been spared to make the original measures under such conditions that the instrumental constants shall be well determined, and all corrections and reductions accurately applied. The result is three catalogues of stars whose coordinates relative to the reference star in each group are determined with great precision. The two catalogues of stars near 61 Cygni and Bradley 3077 are for the purpose of discussing the parallaxes of these well-known stars. The most interesting result of Dr. Davis's discussion is the well-marked difference of parallax between 61¹ and 61² Cygni, determined from both position angles and distances, the numerical amount of which is $0''.072 \pm 0''.028$. This large difference, if real, explains the failure of double-star observers to detect any evidence of orbital motion, and would show that the stars do not form a binary system. A confirmation of this conclusion is found in a careful discussion of Wilsing's determinations of the distance of these two stars, which gives $0''.0876$ for the difference. The mean of the different determinations of parallax for the stars made by other astronomers shows a difference of $0''.082$, which confirms further the reality of the result. The author urges the making of a more extended series of comparisons by photography to give further evidence on this subject.

An interesting result of Mr. Schlesinger's study of the measures of the Præsepe stars is that the method of orienting the plate by the method of trails is not as accurate as that based upon assuming the coordinates of several comparison stars on the plate, as determined by the meridian circle or the heliometer. It was Mr. Rutherford's rule to make two impressions of the regions photographed, stopping the clock for a few seconds between them, and also to give a third impression of the brightest stars by stopping the clock about three minutes and