

has been circulated with the other schemes by the Royal Society ; but one has been prepared. The present writer was asked by Professor Michael Foster to cooperate with Mr. Stout, the editor of *Mind*, who has been selected as the British representative of psychology. Mr. Stout prepared a detailed classification, which was extensively revised by my colleague, Professor Warren (the compiler of *The Psychological Index*) and myself. Our suggestions were all accepted by Mr. Stout and the schedule has been printed, a single copy reaching me some weeks ago. I know no reason for the failure of the committee to circulate it.

J. MARK BALDWIN.

PRINCETON, August 16th.

THE schedule for psychology was not presented to the Committee of Columbia University requested to report upon the plans. Neither, as I am informed, has it subsequently been sent to the responsible editor of *SCIENCE*, to the editor at present responsible for the *Psychological Review* and *Index* or to the professor of psychology of Columbia University. The proceedings of the Conferences on an International Catalogue of Scientific Literature appear to have been held in secret and concealed long thereafter. *SCIENCE* is, so far as I am aware, the only journal in the world that has given an adequate account of the conferences or extended reviews and criticisms of the plans. There is doubtless some reason for the methods of the Royal Society, but if the catalogue is to be begun with international assistance at the beginning of next year it is time that the explanation should be forthcoming.

J. McKEEN CATTELL.

POT-HOLE VS. REMOLINO.

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: If more room can be spared for the discussion of so inconsequential a matter, may I say that a sufficient argument against the adoption of the word 'Remolino' lies in the fact that it is not needed. The term 'Pot-hole' is with us, and, whatever its origin, its meaning is plain. There is no more cause for substituting a Spanish word here than for the substitution of the Spanish language for the English as a whole. One can

but be reminded of the ridiculous attempts at substituting French names for good old American and English dishes on the bills of fare in many of our restaurants and hotels.

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NOTES ON PHYSICS.

THE TRANSMISSION OF LIGHT THROUGH ABSORBING MEDIA.

PROFESSOR OLIVER LODGE, in his presidential address before the London Physical Society,* gives a historical sketch of the theory of the passage of light through absorbing media (opacity), the subject being brought down to date ; in fact, Professor Lodge discusses some of Heaviside's results which are as yet unpublished. Those who are interested in the subject will find the address most interesting and instructive ; it cannot, of course, be abstracted.

W. Voigt, in *Wied. Ann.* 1899, No. 7, gives a general solution of the equation of wave propagation in an absorbing medium. This solution is identical in form to the solution of the 'telegraph equation,' so-called, which expresses the attenuation and variation of form of a telegraph signal. Voigt refers to Poincaré and Picard as having discussed this subject of telegraph signalling and of light transmission through absorbing media.

Readers of English cannot hold Voigt, Poincaré and Picard seriously responsible for their ignorance of the fact that this whole subject of light transmission through absorbing media and of telegraph signals has been very completely worked out by Heaviside, for probably a very few English readers are familiar with his remarkable work. Professor Lodge's presidential address, mentioned above, is almost wholly devoted to the discussion of Heaviside's work, apparently because of its preponderating importance and exceeding simplicity.

Lodge gives, in his address, the steps in the solution of the equation of wave propagation in an absorbing medium (Heaviside, 1887), which, compared with Voigt's solution, is simplicity itself.

* Proceedings of Phys. Soc., XVI., pp. 351-386.