

ments and the topographic features, it seemed probable that during the recession of the glacial ice-sheet a lake had been formed, which, as the ice melted out, had discharged first through the upper pass, and later through the lower one. A number of lantern slides were shown in illustration of the topographic features of the area under discussion.

GLOVER M. ALLEN,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ENDOWMENT OF RESEARCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have been much impressed by the communication of Mr. H. H. Clayton in your recent issue, in relation to the subject of grants for scientific research, for the reason that his views coincide so closely with mine, based on both theoretical considerations and practical experience.

On two occasions I have been the recipient of such grants, and I confess that on each occasion I labored under a feeling of constant uneasiness for fear that I might not be able to accomplish what others might consider adequate returns for the amount of the grant. This feeling may have no reason for existence and perhaps it does injustice to those who have such funds in charge, but that it exists and that it has a distinct influence upon many applicants can not be questioned. It may perhaps be objected that such persons should not, or at least that they need not, seek to avail themselves of such opportunities, but this, it seems to me, would merely result in debarring many conscientious workers, while at the same time encouraging others not so sensitive.

In regard to the effect of prohibiting the payment of personal expenses out of research funds I may not be considered a competent witness, for the reason that in the two instances mentioned I was not restricted as to the manner in which the grants should be expended and it was never necessary for me to try to draw a hard and fast line between what might be considered purely personal expenses and those which were incurred solely in connection with the actual research work. Had such restrictions been imposed, however, I

believe that I should have hesitated to accept the first grant and know that I should have declined the second, on account of my inability to satisfy myself that I could draw a line so that items on either side could not be questioned or criticized.

In common, as I have reason to believe, with nearly every active scientific worker, I have always had sufficient work under way, or definitely planned, to occupy all my time for months and sometimes for years ahead, and tardiness in completing investigations has more often been due to the element of personal expenses than to any other cause. Such a condition is particularly in evidence where investigations involve the necessity of traveling. Good results can hardly be expected if the investigator is constantly harassed by having to consider whether each item of expense may be conscientiously charged to his research fund or not. The success or failure of an investigation in the field may often depend entirely upon the length of time which can be given to it, or, what is the same thing, to the sum available merely for living expenses.

In regard to laboratory work I can not speak from experience, but I do not see why any different principle should prevail in that connection than in any other. The proper basis for a grant, it seems to me, should be absolute confidence in the recipient, giving him to understand that the amount of the grant was his, to apply in any way which he might think would best accomplish, or assist in accomplishing, the object of his investigations.

ARTHUR HOLLICK.

SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE.

A PRIME characteristic of the scientific mind is the ability to enter into details and to make distinctions, as well as to see the relation between the elements of knowledge. In order that some conception of these distinctions may be communicated to another mind, names must be given to a perpetually increasing list of objects and qualities, with divisions and subdivisions. In natural science, to try to stretch an existing vocabulary and make it cover new conceptions by using old names with new