

resulting from the manufacture of sugar and syrup from sugar cane. The importance of the supply of tanning materials and of the study of leathers in regard to strength, appearance and durability is also growing, and constant demands are made upon the Bureau of Chemistry for information on these points.

Most important of the new work which was undertaken during the past year is the inspection of imported food products. Problems connected with the use of artificial colors, glucoses and preservatives have also been studied with a view of making the law more efficient. In the food laboratory important studies have been made during the year on the composition of tropical fruits and fruit products.

In the road material laboratory extensive tests have been made of all the materials used in road construction, both physical and chemical. The relations of colloidal structure to plasticity have been made the subject of especial research, the results of which were communicated to the society at the Philadelphia meeting by Dr. Cushman.

In the insecticide and agricultural water laboratory investigations of insecticides and fungicides, in connection with the Division of Entomology and the Bureau of Plant Industry, have been continued and an elaborate investigation of the character of mineral waters offered for sale has been partially completed. The work on the arsenic content of papers and fabrics sold on the American market has been completed and published as Bulletin No. 86.

F. H. POUGH,  
*Secretary.*

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### 'BERYLLIUM' OR 'GLUCINIUM.'

THERE is apparently little difference of opinion between Dr. Howe and myself as to the facts upon which a claim to priority of 'beryllium' over 'glucinium' as a name for the element under discussion is based, and I am willing to leave the interpretation of those facts to chemists at large.

It has, I think, been supposed, by those of the profession who have not personally looked into the matter, that the oxide was named

'glucine' by Vauquelin himself. I understand that Dr. Howe in his reply to me in *SCIENCE*, for January 6, admits that Vauquelin did not name the element or the oxide; that he in fact would probably have liked to name it 'beryllia,' really adopting glucine in his fourth publication under virtual protest, and that the clause 'la terre du Béril' used by Vauquelin in place of a name was literally translated into German as 'Berylerde,' becoming a definite name, used to this day, before Vauquelin consented to the use of 'glucine.' I think also that he will not question the fact that when it came to the actual use of the terms themselves Wohler separated and described 'beryllium'\* before Bussy prepared 'glucinium'† although they were but a few weeks apart. With this summary I am perfectly willing to leave the question of priority to the 'ninety and nine' who are already using the more preferable term.

As to usage, it is quite evident that Dr. Howe's closing remarks are intended as a pleasantry, as I hardly think he wishes to give the impression that kalzium, kolumbium, etc., are the custom in German chemical literature. He does not question that the major part of the literature is German nor that the Germans, Swedes, Danes, Russians, Dutch and Italians use 'beryllium' exclusively. Next to the Germans the French have the most articles to their credit and use 'glucinium' exclusively, but the impression which Dr. Howe seems to wish to convey, that this is the customary term in England and America, is not correct. He made a lucky find in the index of the *Journal of the Chemical Society* (London) for 1903, which does read 'Beryllium, see Glucinium,' for some unknown reason, for the one abstract to which it refers uses 'beryllium' solely both in title and in subject matter, and 'glucinium' does not appear in this journal in index or abstracts on the subject for several years previously, although the abstracts are frequently from the French. This journal apparently leaves the matter to the wishes of the author, for Pollock in 1904 uses again 'glucinium.' For at least five years

\* *Ann. der Phys.*, 13, 577.

† *Journal de chim. medical*, 4, 453.

the term 'beryllium' has been used exclusively in the index of the *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry* and, so far as I have noticed, in the subject matter as well. On the other hand, the *Chemical News* uses the two words interchangeably in its articles, abstracts and index, part of its articles being indexed under one head and part under the other, and, unfortunately, without any attempt at cross reference. In America only one original article has appeared on the subject in many years which has used 'glucinum.' The *American Chemical Journal* has used 'beryllium.' The *American Journal of Arts and Sciences* for some years has used 'beryllium' and it is here that some of the best articles have appeared. The *Journal of Physical Chemistry* uses 'beryllium.' The *Journal of the American Chemical Society* has allowed its contributors to choose, and one article and two abstracts have appeared on 'glucinum' since its publication.

To play on Dr. Howe's own words, I think that with American, English, German, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, Russian, Italian, etc., journals and chemists using 'beryllium,' we can afford to let the French cling to 'glucinium' (not 'glucinum') a little while longer.

It is true that the committee appointed by the American Association on the Spelling and Pronunciation of Chemical Terms did recommend 'glucinum,' and so far as I can find its members are about the only American chemists loyal to the term. I think it highly unfortunate that their recommendations as to spelling and pronunciation have not been more generally adopted in our chemical literature and language, but it is true they have not and in regard to 'glucinum' it is my humble opinion that they were wrong.

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January 23, 1905.

THE ENGLISH SPARROW AS EMBRYOLOGICAL  
MATERIAL.

DOUBTLESS many readers of SCIENCE who conduct courses in vertebrate embryology, in which the chick is one of the forms studied, have spent laborious hours in mounting serial

sections of embryos of from five to eight days' development. The chick embryo of this age has reached so considerable a size that, even though the sections be cut comparatively thick, a complete series will fill a large number of slides. Of course type sections may be selected, and slide-room thus saved, but it takes nearly as long to prepare such a selected series as it does to mount the entire series.

A convenient substitute for the later chick embryos may be found in the ubiquitous and generally disliked English sparrow. There are probably few localities where the nests of this little pest may not be found; frequently they are so numerous that a large number of eggs may be obtained without difficulty.

So far as size is concerned, the sparrow, even at the time of hatching, is small enough to section without especial difficulty, and at the stage corresponding to the eight-day chick it is so small that a complete series may be mounted on a comparatively small number of slides.

Many teachers have probably made use of this source of supply of material to illustrate some of the phases in avian development that are usually read about in the text-books without being studied in the laboratory, but there may be some who have not thought of this method of procuring material and at the same time of helping to reduce the English sparrow population.

The idea is not original with the writer, but he is sure that it is not patented.

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TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In his letter of December 29 (SCIENCE, 525, p. 111), Dr. Eastman, returning to the question as to whom priority in the use of the term 'geology' properly belongs, says:

I am unable to see why Von Zittel was not scrupulously exact in his handling of facts when crediting Deluc with prior use of the term geology as compared with De Saussure.

His letter bears internal evidence that, like me, Dr. Eastman has been unable to obtain the 1778 edition of Deluc's letters, which alone