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.

Charles Lathrop Parsons.
New Hampshire College,
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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DELUC VERSUS DE SAUSSURE.

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