months' salary of the year for which they were appointed. What legal justification there was for this refusal we do not know; the question is now before the courts of the state in a suit by the professors for the withheld salary. Legal or illegal, it certainly was not just. We shall require a great deal of evidence to convince us that the people of Oklahoma wish their faithful and efficient teachers treated in this fashion. For there is no pretense that they were not faithful and efficient. It is too late now to interpose charges, even if one wished to do so. Nor is it pretended that their successors are abler scholars or likely to be more efficient teachers. The value of a degree in America depends on the college or university which grants it. The men removed represent degrees from Harvard, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Michigan and Chicago Universities. The men appointed in their place represent degrees from Harvard and Texas Universities and Coronal Institute.

No reason for the discharge of this one third or one fifth of the faculty is even hinted at by the president of the board of regents. The fact that two out of the seven members of the board present when this dismissal was voted were Republicans does not indicate that the object of the removal was not political. We do not know how those two voted; Mr. Cruce tells us that one of the two members voted against the dismissal. The fact that the Republican members voted for Mr. Evans after Dr. Boyd was removed does not indicate that Dr. Boyd's removal was not political. Dr. Boyd having been removed, Mr. Evans may have been, for aught we know, the best candidate, or the only candidate, in sight. The one essential fact that appears in this whole miserable business is that the president and a large proportion of the faculty have been summarily removed from office, and that there is no pretense that any question of their scholarly attainments or their competence to teach was involved in the removal. To the charge that the reasons for the removal were political, ecclesiastical and personal favoritism, only one answer is possible. That answer is a clear statement of some other reason; and no other reason is even suggested. —*The Outlook.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Introduction to Metallography. By PAUL GOERENS, Docent in Physical Metallurgy at the Royal Technical High School, Aachen. Translated by FRED IBBOTSON, Lecturer in Metallurgy, The University, Sheffield. London, Longmans, Green and Co. 1908. Pp. x + 214.

The applications of physical chemistry to the solution of industrial problems have been many, but it is doubtful whether any field has yielded such important results as in the study of metallic alloys. Empirically established facts have been placed upon a distinctly scientific basis and fortuitous experimentation has been replaced to a very great extent by accurate prediction. Perhaps in no other field of chemistry or physics has there been such an accumulation of unsystematized observations. This information is now being carefully classified by the results of metallographic study. The methods used are thermal and microscopic—the study of freezing-point curves and the microscopic examination of alloys of varying concentration. The author of this treatise has rendered a distinct service to those interested in the study of the properties of metals. The information has been widely distributed and unavailable to many, and it is now brought together in compact form. The book is simply and clearly written and is an excellent guide to the study of metallography. The exposition of the theoretical side of the subject is not as complete as it might have been but it will give the beginner an excellent idea of equilibrium phenomena. The explanations of the freezing-point diagrams have been duplicated unnecessarily, perhaps not for the beginner, but certainly for those using the book for reference. For the latter class of readers there is too much detail.

The volume treats of the methods employed in the establishments of cooling curves, the interpretations of these curves with chapters on the analogies between aqueous solutions, fused salts and alloys; the practical microscopy and photography of metallic sections; and a special chapter on the iron-carbon system. In the translation this chapter has been completely rewritten.

The author has, in a number of cases, without any apparent reason given the older freezing-point diagrams of Gautier, and Roland-Gosselin along with the more correctly established diagrams of later workers. This arrangement occupies space at the expense of clearness. The placing of the diagram on the page might also have been done to better advantage. As an example, on page 110 the copper-nickel diagram is given under the paragraph heading silver-zinc, and the diagram for this pair of metals is given on the following page under copper-tin.

In the explanation of those diagrams in which a concealed maximum exists, the changes in concentration are not clearly followed and in at least one case inaccurately given.

The chapter on iron-carbon alloys is clear, concise and well illustrated with excellent reproductions of photomicrographs.

Henry Fay

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The contents of *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* for September are: "Pocket Compass Sun-Dial of 1451" (frontispiece); "The Earliest Values of the Magnetic Declination," by L. A. Bauer; "On the Distribution of Magnetism over the Earth's Surface," by P. T. Passalskij, translated by Paul Wernicke; "Report on the Atmospheric Electricity Observations made on the Magnetic Survey Yacht, *Galilee*, 1907–8," by P. H. Dike; Letters to Editor; Notes; Abstracts and Reviews; List of Recent Publications.

THE RULE OF PRIORITY IN ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE[1]

Disapproval was expressed of the extreme application of the rule of priority, which in the author's opinion had brought about much mischief under pretence of aiming at ultimate uniformity. The author protested against the abuse to which this otherwise excellent rule had been put by some recent workers, encouraged as they were by the decision of several committees who had undertaken to revise the Stricklandian Code, elaborated under the auspices of the British Association in 1842. The worst feature of this abuse is not so much the bestowal of unknown names on well-known creatures as the transfer of names from one to another, as we have seen in the case of *Astacus, Torpedo, Holothuria, Simia, Cynocephalus,* and many others which must be present to the mind of every systematist.

The names that were used uniformly by Cuvier, Johannes Müller, Owen, Agassiz, Darwin, Huxley, Gegenbaur, would no longer convey any meaning, very often they would be misunderstood; in fact the very object for which Latin or Latinized names were introduced would be defeated. It is all very well to talk of uniformity in the future, but surely we must have some consideration for the past. Names with which all general zoologists anatomists and physiologists are familiar should be respected, should be excepted from the rule in virtue of what may be termed the privilege prescription.

If biologists would agree to make that one exception to the law of priority in nomenclature things would adjust themselves well enough, and we might hope to see realized some day what we all desire, fixity in names, that we may readily understand the meaning of all writers, not only over the whole civilized world, at the present day and in the future, but back into the last century, which has marked so great an advance in zoological science. Such a result would be attained by protecting time-honored names of well-known animals from the attacks of the revisers of nomenclature. For this purpose future committees that may be convened to discuss these topics might confer a real and lasting benefit on zoology by determining group by group, which names are entitled to respect, not, of course, on the ground of their earliest date or their correct application in the past, but as having been universally used in a definite sense.

This suggestion is not a new one. As far back as 1896, in a discussion which took place at the Zoological Society of London, Sir Ray

[1] Abstract of a paper by G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., presented at the Dublin meeting of the British Association.