

and invited guests, tendered by the Chamber of Commerce of Roanoke.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Oregon State Academy of Sciences was held at the High School, Salem, on February 19 and 20, with the following program:

President's Annual Address, A. R. Sweetser.

Illustrated Lecture on Birds, Wm. L. Finley.

"Some Perplexing Problems in the Most Complex of the Sciences," Gaylard H. Patterson.

"Disturbance of Embryonic Nutrition," Ernest Barton.

"The Mineral World," W. A. Miller.

"Some Hymenoptera," C. E. Bridwell.

"The Sea Side Laboratory at Friday Harbor" (illustrated), C. O. Chambers.

"The Kinetic Theory of Matter," B. C. Eastham.

"Denatured Alcohol," C. E. Bradley.

"Problems in Sex Determination," J. F. Bovard.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Consumption has arranged to hold a tuberculosis exhibition at the Art Gallery, High Street, Whitechapel, London. The exhibition will illustrate the extent, cause, spread, prevention and cure of tuberculosis, and will have a special section devoted to tuberculosis in children. It is expected that the exhibition will be opened by the President of the Local Government Board on June 2, and it is proposed that after it has been shown in London it should be taken to various provincial cities and towns.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A BOARD of education has been established in Iowa to control the State University, the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts and the State Normal School. The board is to consist of nine members, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, five to be republicans and four democrats. The members of the board serve for six years, one third retiring every two years. The board is to elect a finance committee, of three members, from without its own membership. These three men are to give their entire time to the business management of the institutions, and are to receive salaries of \$3,500 a year.

THE twelfth conference for education in the south was held in Atlanta, Ga., April 14 to 17.

The conference, while discussing general educational subjects, was devoted especially to the improvement of conditions in the open country. The president, Mr. Robert C. Ogden, of New York, gave an address, and the program included addresses on "The American Spirit in Education," by Dr. S. C. Mitchell, the newly elected president of the University of South Carolina; "The National Program in Education," by Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown, U. S. Commissioner of Education; "How the National Government may cooperate with the States in Bettering Conditions in the Open Country," by Mr. Gifford Pinchot, of the Forest Service, Washington.

DR. W. F. DEARBORN, assistant professor of educational psychology in the University of Wisconsin, has resigned to take a similar position in the University of Chicago. Dr. B. H. Bode, assistant professor of philosophy in the University of Wisconsin, has resigned to accept a professorship in the University of Illinois.

DR. EDMUND LANDAU, of Berlin, has been called to a professorship of mathematics at Göttingen.

DR. HERMAN KOBOLD has been called from Kiel, to a professorship of astronomy at Berlin.

M. PAUL LANGEVIN has been appointed professor of physics in the Collège de France, as successor of the late M. Mascart.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ON GENERIC NAMES

IN a recent issue of SCIENCE, Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark has done good service in deprecating the too familiar practise of naming species after (commonly insignificant) persons. While not a systematic zoologist *sensu stricto* myself, I have had occasion to consult taxonomic works quite extensively for a number of years past, and I am therefore in a position to appreciate the force of Dr. Clark's criticisms. It is my object here to extend their application a little, so as to cover generic names as well. It appears to me that for these last the objection holds with even greater force, since the genus is, theoretically, at

least,<sup>1</sup> a larger category than the species. It is true that we have high precedent for naming genera after persons, as witness the genus *Linnæa*, named for the great master himself by one of his contemporaries. And we have become so accustomed to *Fuchsia* and *Wistaria* that we scarcely ever give thought to their derivation. But what shall we say of *Montagua*, *Grantia*, *Perkinsia*, *Fitzroya*, *Kellia*, *Mitchillina*, *Smithia*, *Jonesia*, etc.? These were all, no doubt, estimable gentlemen who did their share of the world's work; but are their names commanding enough (to say nothing of euphony!) to deserve perpetuation in scientific literature? And if we should take into consideration the question of euphony, what would become of such genera as *Billingsella*, *Girardinichthys*, *Pilsbryoconcha* and *Tarletonbeania*,<sup>2</sup> or of *Kohlera* and *Dyaria*?<sup>3</sup> Any systematist could add indefinitely to this list.

Loyalty to one's friends is a commendable trait, even in a man of science; and a sense of humor is possibly the only thing that saves most of us from suicide or insanity. But there is a time and place for all things. One assumes a grave responsibility in inflicting upon future generations<sup>4</sup> such philological abortions as those to which I have been alluding.

FRANCIS B. SUMNER

WOODS HOLE, MASS.,  
March 31, 1909

#### A MENDELIAN VIEW OF SEX-HEREDITY; A CORRECTION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: My attention has been called to the fact that in a recent article on sex-heredity published in SCIENCE, March 5, 1909, I carelessly wrote *lugens* for

<sup>1</sup>This qualification is inserted in view of the growing custom of creating a separate genus to contain each species.

<sup>2</sup>This should have been *Tarleton-H-Beania*. Dr. Bean is plainly entitled to damages.

<sup>3</sup>This last I have on hearsay, but it is far from incredible.

<sup>4</sup>This is confessedly a bit of rhetorical exaggeration. A taxonomic name does not generally endure over five years, if, indeed, it is fortunate enough to be overlooked for so long a period.

*lacticolor*, on pages 399 and 400, when referring to the pale variety of *Abraxas grossulariata*.

W. E. CASTLE

March 31, 1909

#### BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE

THE undersigned will print as soon as the compilation can be made, a second edition of the *Biographical Directory of American Men of Science*. The work is intended to be a contribution to the organization of science in America, and the editor will greatly appreciate the assistance of scientific men in making its contents accurate and complete. Those whose biographies appear in the first edition are requested to forward such alterations and additions as may be necessary or desirable, and to obtain biographical sketches from those who should be included. All those engaged in scientific work whose biographies are not included in the first edition are requested to send the information needed, using for this purpose the blank that is given on an advertising page (vii) of the current issue of SCIENCE.

It is intended that each entry shall contain information as follows:

1. The full name with title and mail address, the part of the name ordinarily omitted in correspondence being in parentheses.
2. The department of investigation given in italics.
3. The place and date of birth.
4. Education and degrees, including honorary degrees.
5. Positions with dates, the present position being given in italics.
6. Temporary and minor positions; scientific awards and honors.
7. Membership in scientific and learned societies with offices held.
8. Chief subjects of research, those accomplished being separated by a dash from those in progress.

All those in North America should be included in the book who have made contributions to the natural and exact sciences. The standards are expected to be about the same as those of fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science or