

more of formation names of my own invention utilized in Mr. Gordon's article without credit, at least, attest that the studies of the Texas Cretaceous by me left some impress upon the subject.

ROBT. T. HILL

THE DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On page 453 of SCIENCE for March 19, 1909, a reference to the "Daylight Saving Bill" is introduced by the statement: "It is said that the Ohio state legislature once passed a bill establishing the value of π to accord with the views of some circle squarer."

A declaration beginning "it is said" is usually safe against correction, because anything may be "said," but in this instance I am moved to say that the laurel wreath has been put upon the wrong brow.

It was in Indiana, nearly twenty years ago, that such a bill was introduced by a member of the state legislature, but it was "laughed out of court," after making some progress in the lower house, as such measures often do where not much attention is given to the real meaning of every bill put upon the calendar. As far as I know, the legislature of the state of Ohio has not yet concerned itself with the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. After all, a good deal may be said for a state legislature that has devoted even a brief hour to an intelligent consideration of the value of π , and a careful investigation might show that the ability to do this is by no means restricted to regions east of the Allegheny Mountains. It is a well-known fact that of the Presidents of the United States serving within the last half century (barring one recently retired, who forms a class by himself), the two who were most appreciative of the work of scientific men and most capable *by reason of their own knowledge and experience*, of determining its value, were chosen, one from Ohio and one from Indiana, while that one least so was from the great Empire State. The record of the "middle west" in this respect is sure to be maintained during the administration just now beginning.

It is a serious mistake to put the author of the daylight saving bill in the same class with the circle squarers. The measure has been given much attention by all of the best English newspapers and periodicals during the past year and, with few exceptions, the criticisms have been most favorable. The passage of the bill has been urged by a very large number of eminent Englishmen, including many of the most distinguished men of science, and the advantages its adoption would secure are so many that it seems tolerably certain to receive the approval of parliament in the not distant future.

T. C. M.

DRESDEN, GERMANY

LIBRARY BOOK-STACKS WITHOUT DAYLIGHT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I was greatly interested in the short abstract of Mr. Bernard R. Green's address on "Library Book-stacks without Daylight," which appears in SCIENCE for April 9, 1909, p. 592.

I remember very well probably five or six years ago a conversation that I had with Mr. Green in connection with the new library building of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, when I made the following suggestions, which I would like to put on record for the consideration of others.

It seemed to me that the ideal book-stack should be built with solid brick walls without any openings of any kind, and that even in the roof there should be no skylight and no openings except for the chimneys and ventilation. Artificial light could be turned on and off at will and would provide amply and inexpensively for the light. Forced ventilation would keep the air pure. This method of construction would have the following advantages:

1. A wall of solid brick is much cheaper than one with openings for windows, which must be filled with expensive wire glass, to which must be added the cost of iron shutters, with some automatic device for their closure.
2. It is a much better protection against fire.
3. It excludes all dust.
4. The book-stacks can be placed in the