

Now there are a few works in this category which might be brought before our legislature (International Committee) to which I should be willing to give the power to say arbitrarily, "This book or the names in it shall not (or shall) be considered in nomenclature," on petition as to books of this category. I am not sure that much good would result, for the application of the code has been made in so many instances that the dubitable names are already more familiar to the younger men than those they replace. Still the main point is to gain stability and have the question settled definitely one way or the other; so I have for some time favored giving to the international committee the despotic power I have indicated in addition to those they already possess.

In regard to the particular instance referred to by Mr. Balch, it is sufficient to say that the question is already settled definitely by the code, where Mr. Jukes-Brown will find the answer when he becomes familiar with that body of laws. His uncertainty reminds one of the lady lawyer who, finding herself puzzled in the course of an argument, appealed to the late Chief Justice Wylie, who was hearing the case, as to what course she should pursue, and was dryly advised to consult a good lawyer.

One other question has recently been raised in *SCIENCE* about which a word may be proper here. That is about the use of personal specific names. The objection to them comes chiefly from those who have not yet fully appreciated the axiom that "a name is a name and not a definition." They have become commoner because the Latin adjectives in genera of many species are largely already in use, and a personal name is much less likely to prove a synonym. Further than that it is a mere question of personal taste.

WM. H. DALL

June 28, 1909

THE COMPARATIVE ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS OF ENGINEERING

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: The communication by Mr. Tombo in the issue of *SCIENCE* for June 4 is interesting as showing the in-

crease or decrease in registration at the particular institutions mentioned, but it is hardly fair to draw conclusions for the entire country unless the engineering students at all institutions are included.

For instance, the total increase of 1.15 per cent. is changed by one third of its value if the University of Pennsylvania be included in the count. The enrolment at that institution for 1907-8 was 748; for 1908-9 it was 811; the increase is 63 or 8.4 per cent. As the school in question has the finest engineering building in the country and the most modern equipment and as its increase was only exceeded by two schools in the published list, it is not clear why it was omitted in the count.

It is to be noted also that only one school south of the Ohio River is considered. The total might be substantially changed by including that half of the country.

It is hardly fair, too, to infer a general trend from figures for a year following a period of financial and industrial depression.

M. G. LLOYD

THE omission of the University of Pennsylvania in the table was entirely due to inadvertence. This institution was on the list originally prepared by me, and either my letter to them or their report to me must have gone astray in the mails, and in preparing the final table I failed to note the omission. The enrolment of the engineering schools of the University of Pennsylvania for 1907-8 was 748, for 1908-9 it was 811, thus showing an increase of 64 students or of 8.4 per cent. In size, therefore, the school of this institution would rank eighth among the schools contained in the table. There was no intention to draw conclusions for the entire country, but I see no objection to inferring a general trend from figures giving the enrolment of two dozen representative institutions. So far as the southern schools are concerned they are, speaking broadly, not as important as those included in the table, and furthermore, although efforts were made to secure the figures of the most important of these schools, it

failed to comply with my request. Mr. Lloyd is no doubt correct in attributing the decrease in attendance at a number of the institutions to the financial and industrial depression of the preceding year.

I might point out in this connection that it seems rather unfortunate that separate enrolment figures for the technological schools are not given in the annual reports of the United States Commissioner of Education, such as are given, for example, for theology, law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, etc. I appreciate the difficulty of distinguishing between pure technological students and academic students who are candidates for a degree in science, but it seems to me that it would be eminently worth while to prevail upon the reporting institutions to make this distinction in future. A table illustrating the changes in the attendance on the engineering schools of our country similar to that found on page 777 of volume 2 of the Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1908, which covers theology, law, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, would be of great value and deep interest.

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Psychotherapy. By H. MÜNSTERBERG, M.D., Ph.D., Litt.D., LL.D. New York, Moffat, Yard & Co. 1909. Pp. 401.

In an article touching on the popular propaganda for child-study, Münsterberg wrote ten years ago in the *Atlantic Monthly*¹

I have always found psychology silent as a sphinx when I came to her with the question of what we ought to do in the walks of practical life.

He has now turned to a very different attitude. In a series of books he discusses, for a wider public, the practical applications of modern psychology. The present volume deals with the relations of psychology to medicine, and aims to reach a wider public, physicians, ministers and all who are in practical contact with the important question of psychotherapy. It is not meant to have the form of loose popular essays, a form preferred where wide attention is to be attracted to a new topic, as in last

¹ Vol. 85, p. 661.

year's presentation of the work of Stern and Jung and others as psychology applied to witenesses. It is to deal with the whole cycle of the over-popularized problems of psychotherapy "in a serious systematic way and to emphasize the aspect of scientific psychological theory." A worthy aim is to strengthen the public feeling that the time has come when every physician should systematically study psychology, the normal psychology in the college years and the abnormal in the medical school. Scientific medicine should take hold of psychotherapeutics now, or a most deplorable disorganization will set in.

This is a rather complex and difficult problem. Psychotherapy is in the air and wildly exploited in the book-market and in magazines. Every new book is devoured with avidity by a heterogeneous set of readers prompted as a rule by curiosity or eagerness to get a few helps to bolster up their own theories and exploitations. I see the book in the hands of utterly untrained persons, whose "practical contact with these important questions" is chiefly the desire for self-help or the promptings of curiosity. This is inevitable for a series of books "for a wider public."

Münsterberg says in his preface:

To those who seek a discussion of life facts alone, the whole first part will, of course, appear to be a tedious way around; they may turn directly to the second and third parts.

I can not help feeling that the average reader will go directly at the chapters with the records of cases only, so that we should really review the book from three standpoints: Its efficiency (1) as a serious unit; (2) as a presentation of facts for those who would as well forego the trouble of a careful digestion of the real principles, and pass over a really most valuable part of the book, and (3) the efficiency of the book from the point of view of a collection of case records.

This may make the author responsible for the inevitable. But where the author himself realizes that he invites certain readers to make a partial use of the book only, his responsibility is admitted. I must leave the verdict to him and the critical readers.