

Promotions:

Robert E. Swain, to be professor of physiological chemistry.

Lillian J. Martin, to be professor of psychology.

John O. Snyder, to be associate professor of zoology.

Percy E. Davidson, to be associate professor of education.

Rufus C. Bentley, to be associate professor of education.

LeRoy Abrams, to be associate professor of botany.

Clara S. Stoltenberg, to be associate professor of physiology.

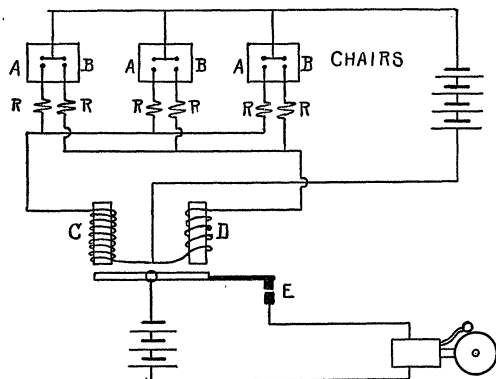
David M. Folsom, to be associate professor of mining.

Galen H. Clevenger, to be associate professor of metallurgy.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FACULTY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

For the purpose of facilitating the despatch of business the following electrical device is suggested. The method of operation will be evident from an inspection of the diagram of the electrical circuits. All the chairs of the faculty room are fitted with electric circuits as indicated in the three chairs shown. Each chair has two switches; those indicated by *B* are automatically closed when the chair is



occupied; those indicated by *A* are push-button switches concealed on the arm of the chair to be closed by hand. *R, R, R*, etc., are suitable rheostats all of the same resistance. It is evident that when any number of chairs are occupied the combined current through

the switches *B* will excite the electromagnet *D*. If the electromagnet *C* has twice as many turns of wire as *D* then, when a majority of those present at any meeting close the hand switches *A*, the magnet *C* will exert more pull upon the armature than *D*, thus causing the contact *E* to be closed and the bell to ring.

The apparatus is not intended primarily as a means of taking formal votes but as an impersonal means of calling for the previous question. In place of the bell it might be considered desirable to use an electric sign with the exhortation "*sit down*."

S.

MUSEUM LABELING

ON the first two pages of the March issue of the *Museum News* of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences are many ideas pleasing to those interested in museum labeling. These stand out in contrast to some ideas with which museum men in this country, especially during the last decade, have been overwhelmed. The art of label writing, as there stated, is truly a gift. Many people fail to understand this and few realize that one must sometimes let an unsatisfactory label stand for a time, just as a minister sometimes preaches a poor sermon.

The *Museum News* is almost an ideal example of what a museum newspaper should be. It is dignified, conveys not only interesting but true information and also has a distinct tendency to cause the reader to wish to help not only the museums of Brooklyn, but the museums of the country.

HARLAN I. SMITH

WILKES'S ANTARCTIC DISCOVERIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The *Zeitschrift* of the Geographical Society of Berlin recently published a short notice¹ or review of my article "Why America should Reexplore Wilkes Land."² The reviewer finds fault with the article and attempts to straighten it out in the following words:

¹ *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin*, 1910, No. 7, p. 469.

² *Proceedings American Philosophical Society*, Vol. XLVIII., 1909.

Für eine kräftige Wiederaufnahme antarktischer Forschung, und zwar in Wilkes Land durch Nord-Amerika tritt Edwin Swift Balch mit Entschiedenheit vor. Seine einschlägigen Darlegungen aber leiden durch die gänzlich ungerechtfertigte Annahme, dass die früheren Arbeiten der Nordamerikaner nicht nach Gebühr geschätzt, und in England ignoriert worden seien. Das ist nicht geschehen. Insbesondere hat die Fahrt von Wilkes an der Nordküste von Ost-Antarktika immer volle Anerkennung gefunden, ist doch der Name Wilkes Land jenem Küstenstriche gegeben worden. Aber Zweifel sind entstanden, da sich nicht alle Angaben von Wilkes als stichhaltig erwiesen haben. Dies gilt insbesondere von den Angaben von Land auf einer Karte, welche Wilkes James Ross gegeben hat. Bereits letzterer passierte am 6. Januar 1841 eine solche Stelle und fand hier tiefes Wasser, und seither hat Scott auf seiner Heimreise genau den Ort auf offener See passiert, wo Wilkes angibt, am 19. Januar 1840 3000' hohes Landgesehen zu haben. Endlich hat E. v. Drygalski bekanntlich Termination Land nicht an der Stelle gefunden, wo es Wilkes es gesichtet haben will.

In this short paragraph the reviewer makes five statements which call for an answer.

1 and 2. The reviewer says it "has not happened" that the work of American explorers was ignored in England: and also that Wilkes has had full recognition.

In order to recognize the erroneous nature of these two statements it is only necessary to turn to many of the papers of Sir Clements R. Markham, beginning with his article "Polar Regions"³ and culminating in his article "The Antarctic Expeditions,"⁴ in which he mentioned many of the more prominent Antarctic explorers, but ignored totally Wilkes's discovery of the mainland of East Antarctica and Palmer's discovery of the mainland of West Antarctica. Scott's various misstatements about Wilkes,⁵ winding up in his silly assertion "thus once and for all we have definitely disposed of Wilkes Land," can also be cited as attempts at disparagement.

³ "Encyclopædia Britannica," ninth edition, American reprint, 1885.

⁴ *The Geographical Journal*, 1899, Vol. XIV., pp. 473-481.

⁵ "The Voyage of the Discovery," *passim*.

Of course, some English writers are just and fair, and a shining example is Dr. Hugh Robert Mill, who writes in accord with the evidence⁶ and whose excellent work the reviewer might consult with profit.

3. The reviewer repeats the old misstatement about Ross sailing over a part of Wilkes Land. I supposed that I had killed that piece of fiction⁷ and that Dr. Mill had laid its ghost.⁸ This matter would take too much space for rediscussion here, and it seems sufficient to mention the fact that, as far as I am aware, my italicized statement "none of Wilkes's discoveries were disproved by Ross, for the simple reason that Ross never was within sighting distance of any part of Wilkes Land"⁹ has never been challenged.

4. The reviewer says that Scott passed "exactly the spot on open sea," where Wilkes states he saw land. Now Scott makes no claim to sailing over any part of Wilkes Land. On his return voyage, Scott sailed westward towards Cape Hudson, but when he got within about fifteen miles of where Wilkes had charted it—doubtless fifty miles too far north—Scott turned northward and sailed away. A glance at Scott's chart¹⁰ proves this absolutely and that Scott therefore did not disprove any of Wilkes's discoveries.¹¹

5. The reviewer says that Drygalski did not find Termination Land at the place where Wilkes said he had seen it. Now Wilkes, at the most westerly point of his memorable cruise along the northern coast of East Antarctica, saw appearances of land to the southwest and charted them as Termination Land. Then Drygalski on his cruise south discovered to the eastward a "high ice-covered land." And a comparison of the charts of the two explorers proves that Drygalski's "high

⁶ "The Siege of the South Pole," 1905.

⁷ "Antarctica," 1902.

⁸ "The Siege of the South Pole," pp. 246-247, 287.

⁹ "Antarctica," p. 183.

¹⁰ "The Voyage of the Discovery."

¹¹ See "Wilkes Land," *The Bulletin of the American Geographical Society*, January, 1906.

ice-covered land" must be the western edge of Termination Land.

I explained this matter fully in an article "Termination Land."¹² That article was commented on in Germany at length by Dr. Singer,¹³ who concluded that there was no reason for leaving the name "Termination Land" off the charts, and who also published with his article an excellent map proving that Termination Land and Drygalski's high land are one. It was also commented on by Dr. H. Wichmann¹⁴ who stated likewise that there was no cause for taking the name Termination Land off the charts; and by Dr. H. Haaek,¹⁵ who wrote that Drygalski's assumption could not be kept upright. That is to say, three leading German geographical authorities entirely agree with me as to Drygalski's high ice-covered land being Termination Land.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Putnam Anniversary Volume. Anthropological Essays presented to Frederic Ward Putnam in Honor of his Seventieth Birthday, April 16, 1909, by his Friends and Associates. New York, G. E. Stechert & Co. 1909.

The pupils, colleagues and friends of Professor Frederic Ward Putnam have chosen the very happy and suitable method of celebrating his seventieth birthday by presenting him with a volume of original anthropological essays. I had the pleasure of first meeting Professor Putnam at the Toronto meeting of the British Association in 1897 and was at once charmed by his personality. Since then I have renewed my friendship with him on every possible occasion, and have been more and more impressed with his enthusiasm and knowledge. I have seen the results of his labors in Cambridge, New York and Berk-

eley and have learned from his pupils how much they are indebted to him for their training, guidance and wise counsel. But in addition to gratitude for these advantages they feel a personal affection for the man himself, which is shared also by his colleagues at home, in England and elsewhere. It is as an honored and beloved master that his former pupils and friends offer this tribute.

It is manifestly impossible to give an account of the twenty-five essays, but the following statement will give some idea of their scope. A bibliography of over four hundred items indicates Professor Putnam's activity, but many of these are notes and annual reports. It is interesting to find that Professor Putnam, like so many anthropologists, started his scientific life as a zoologist; for ten years he was curator of ornithology in the Essex Institute and later took charge of the Vertebrata. Though most of his zoological papers deal with vertebrates, he also published a few papers on invertebrates. In 1869 he published the first annual report of the Peabody Academy of Science, and his last purely zoological paper was published in 1879.

By far the greater part of Professor Putnam's anthropological work was in the domain of archeology, so it is fitting that the first essay should be on "The Archeology of California," by an old pupil, A. L. Kroeber; thirty years previously Professor Putnam had written on the subject, and it is well known that the anthropological school of the University of California owes much to his wise direction. This essay gives a bird's-eye-view of what has since been accomplished, and enables us to form some estimate of the civilization of the ancient inhabitants of California. Among the archeological papers is a beautifully illustrated memoir on "Ancient Zuñi Pottery," by J. Walter Fewkes, which gives a needed synopsis of the old types of decorated vessels of the Zuñi, and the conclusion is drawn that the radical difference in the symbolism of prehistoric and modern Zuñi pottery confirms legendary evidence of the dual composition of the tribe. Charles C. Willoughby describes

¹² *The National Geographic Magazine*, Vol. XV., May, 1904, p. 221.

¹³ *Globus*, Vol. 86, No. 4, p. 63.

¹⁴ *Petermann's Geographischen Mitteilungen*, 1904, Heft VII., p. 2.

¹⁵ *Geographischer Anzeiger*, 1904, IX., p. 201.