

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE sum of £3,000 has been left to the University of Belfast by Mrs. F. Magrath for the foundation of a "Magrath clinical scholarship," to be given for proficiency in reports of bedside cases open to fourth-year medical students.

At an extraordinary meeting of the senate of the University of London, held on July 17, resolutions were adopted, as we learn from *Nature*, approving of the Foundling Hospital site in Bloomsbury for the proposed new headquarters for the university, in accordance with the recommendations contained in a report of the Special Sites Committee, over which Sir Philip Magnus, M.P., presides. Representations are to be made to the government with the view of obtaining support for the scheme, and the Drapers' Company are to be asked whether they consider the site suitable for the proposed Senate House which they have offered to provide at an estimated cost of £60,000. Lord Haldane is also to be asked to use his influence so that offers of financial support already made to him may be available for the Foundling Hospital site. A motion to refer back the report for further consideration was negatived by a small majority.

MR. H. G. HARTMANN, Ph.D., of Columbia University, has been appointed instructor in philosophy at the University of Cincinnati.

GEORGE WEATHERWORTH STRATTON, B.A. (Colorado), Ph.D. (Ohio State, '12), has been appointed assistant professor in the department of chemistry of the University of Kansas.

DR. OTTO PORSCH has been promoted to be associate professor of botany and director of the botanical garden of the University of Czernowitz.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

MANY zoologists have long been exasperated by the changes of familiar names which result from a blind and inflexible following of the law of priority. The conditions, in fact,

are so bad that it is a frequent remark that the only fixed names are the common ones. At the Graz Zoological Congress there was an attempt to have the rules modified and to introduce a little equity and common sense into the nomenclatorial laws, but, although the movement was backed by a majority of those present, it was burked in the nomenclatorial commission.

Recently a number of Austrians (among them the well-known names of Hatschek, Steindacher, Grobben, Sturany, Graf Attems, Przibram, etc.) have formulated three proposed modifications of the laws and rules to which they wish all who favor them to subscribe. In the same line is the recent action of the German Zoological Society, which at the Halle meeting adopted three articles which are to be presented at the next (Monaco) meeting of the Zoological Congress to be held in March, 1913. The circulars of both organizations are summarized here. The undersigned will supply copies of the original circulars to all asking for them as long as the supply lasts.

The first section of the Austrian circular modifies article 25 of the International Code and provides that no work which is not binomial in character shall be considered in the nomenclature of genera and species. The second provides that when a species has once been removed from a genus it shall not be considered as the type of the genus in any later revision. This will avoid the most flagrant cause of generic changes and its adoption will allow the retention of the great majority of the familiar names.

The third section is for the government of the Commission on Nomenclature. It provides that all propositions for alterations of or additions to the Rules of Nomenclature which have received an absolute majority of the full membership of the Commission on Nomenclature (*i. e.*, 8 votes) and of the votes of those members who are present at the voting on the proposition at the meeting of the Congress, shall be submitted to the plenum of the Congress for vote.

This last is of great importance since the existing rule (*adopted by the Commission and not by the Congress*) demands the unanimous consent of the Commission before any proposition can be submitted to the Congress; thus allowing a single member of the Commission to overrule the great majority of the zoologists of the world, a contingency which, in the light of some recent occurrences, is not beyond the realms of imagination.

All who are in favor of these modifications are earnestly requested to sign a statement to the effect that they endorse the three propositions of the Committee signed by O. Abel and others, and to send the same to Professor F. Poche, Wien, I, Graben 17, Austria.

The German Zoological Society also adopted three propositions, as follows:

I. Following the example of the botanists, lists of generic names are to be prepared which are to be removed from any action of the law of priority, are never to be changed nor transferred to other genera. These lists are to be increased by special commissions. Prominent among these are the names which were in common use before 1900 and which are employed in instruction. Among these may be cited the following as examples:

MAMMALS

- Anthropopithecus*, chimpanzee (not *Simia*, orang).
Cercolabes (not *Coendou*).
Caelogenys (not *Agouti*).
Cynocephalus (not *Chaeropithecus*).
Dicotyles (not *Tayassus*).
Echidna (not *Tachyglossus*).
Galeopithecus (not *Cynocephalus*).
Lemur (not *Procebus*).
Manatus, manatee (not *Trichechus*, walrus).

BIRDS

- Cypselus* (not *Apus*).

REPTILES

- Coluber* (not *Elaphe*).
Trionyx (not *Amyda*).
Tropidonotus (not *Natrix*).
Vipera (not *Coluber*).

FISHES

- Amia* (not *Amiatus*).

- Bdellostoma* (not *Heptatremia*).
Conger (not *Leptocephalus*).

TUNICATA

- Cyclosalpa* (not *Holothuria*).
Salpa (not *Dagysa*).

INSECTA

- Anthophora* (not *Podalirius*).
Periplaneta (not *Stylopyga*).

CRUSTACEA

- Apus* (not *Triops*).
Astacus (not *Potamobia*).
Daphnia (not *Daphne*).
Homarus (not *Astacus*).

HIRUDINEI

- Clepsine* (not *Glossiphonia*).

MOLLUSCA

- Octopus* (not *Polypus*).
Unio (not *Lymnium*).

BRACHIOPODA

- Terebratula* (not *Liothyrida*).

ECHINODERMA

- Holothuria* (not *Bohadschia*).
Mora (not *Echinocardium*).
Colochirus (not *Actinia*).
Schizaster (not *Spatangus*).
Spatangus (not *Prospatangus*).
Strongylocentrotus (not *Echinus*).

PROCHORDATA

- Phoronis* (not *Actinotrocha*).

CNIDARIA

- Actinia* (not *Priapus*).
Physalia (not *Holothuria*).

II. The transfer of generic or specific names from one genus or species to another shall not be allowed, when this will lead to lasting confusion or error.

III. Certain works are not to be considered in the determination of questions of priority. Among these are:

P. H. G. Moehring: "Geschlechten der Vögel, Avium genera. Übersetzt von Nozemann." 1758.

Gistel: "Naturgeschichte des Tierreichs." 1848.
 Meigen: "Nouvelle classification des mouches à deux ailes (Diptera)." 1800.

Frisch: "Das Natur-System der vierfüssigen Tiere." 1775.

Brisson: "Regnum animale in Classes IX distrib." 1762.

Brunnich: "Zoologiae Fundamenta praelectionibus academicis accommodata." 1772.

Gronovius: "Zoophylacii Gronoviana Fasciculus I." 1763.

Gronovius: "Zoophylacium Gronovianum," etc. 1781.

Geoffroy: "Histoire abrégée des Insectes, etc." 1762.

"Museum Calonnianum." 1797.

Okén: "Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte." 1816.

This list will be enlarged by the commission.

IV. Also, in determining matters of priority, certain other publications shall be ignored, among them articles in encyclopedias, popular works of travel, journals of hunting and fishing, catalogues, garden journals, agricultural periodicals, political and local newspapers and other non-scientific journals which are without influence in systematic science.

Those who are willing to subscribe to these additions and emendations of the nomenclatorial laws are earnestly requested to sign and send to Professor Dr. A. Brauer, Zoologisches Museum, Invalidenstrasse, Berlin, Germany, a postal card to the effect "I am in sympathy with the propositions of the German Zoological Society to restrict the law of priority and authorize my name to be appended to them."

It is hardly necessary to add anything to the matters referred to above. A single glance at the list of generic names which it is proposed to have removed from the rules will convince any one that the changes otherwise necessary would result in endless confusion without a single gain to science. The other proposals also will appeal to all who are not firmly wedded to an inflexible law with all the deplorable results that must follow. It is only by having many names appended to the proposals that the changes can be carried through the next congress. It is to be regretted that the time selected for the Monaco meeting is such that most Americans will be prevented from attending, but this has seemed

necessary from the matter of climate and the times of the European vacations.

J. S. KINGSLEY

DOME THEORIES AS APPLIED TO GULF COAST GEOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In a recent number of SCIENCE (June 21) is found a communication by Captain A. F. Lucas in which he states without any qualifications that the undersigned "claims the entire credit for the discovery and promulgation of 'the dome theory' of the accumulation of oil in the Gulf Coastal Plain." The statements are found so "misleading" that he feels it his duty to correct them. This he endeavors to do by quoting the article in full and following the same by quotations from those familiar with oil development along this coast.

The misinterpretations the Captain has put upon my article seem to have their origin in our different conceptions of what is implied by a "dome theory." That various theories at various times, each with some excellent and some weak points, have been suggested to account for the dome structures of our coast we know full well. But that there is an acknowledged one styled "the dome theory" is news to the undersigned. That this writer does claim the credit for the discovery and promulgation of "a dome theory" he will have to admit. Others will have to make similar admissions. Even the Captain mentions entering Texas with a "nascent dome theory" in his mind. Possibly this one after successful birth has grown into "the dome theory." However, judging from the tenor of the Captain's article, including quotations, it seems that the phrase, "the dome theory," has often been used to imply simply short anticlinal or quaquavasal structures with local oil concentrations. If such be the general acceptance of the phrase then the writer must frankly admit that the "credit for the discovery and promulgation of" the dome theory of the accumulation of oil in the Gulf coastal plain is not his. The tendency of hydrocarbons to accumulate in anticlines,