in artificial light the exact qualities of daylight.

The Inter-polar Commission will meet at Rome during the meeting of the tenth International Geographical Congress, on April 2, 1913.

The sixth Congress of the International Association for Testing Materials is meeting this week in the Engineering Societies Building, New York City.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A bequest of $100,000 to the University of Manchester, made by Mr. J. E. Taylor, has become payable by the death of his widow.

Dr. Alan W. C. Menzies, assistant professor of chemistry in the University of Chicago, has been appointed head of the department of chemistry at Oberlin College.

On the recommendation of Dr. David Kinley, dean of the Graduate School, the trustees of the University of Illinois authorized a post-doctorate fellowship for study abroad and Miss Margaret L. Bailey has been awarded the fellowship.

Mr. F. J. Lewis, demonstrator in botany in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed professor of biology in the University of Alberta.

Professor W. M. Bayliss, F.R.S., has been appointed professor of general physiology in University College, London.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE CORROSION OF IRON AND STEEL

To the Editor of Science: In a communication from Dr. Allerton S. Cushman, published in Science for August 16, 1912, a certain paragraph in a review of Friend's "Corrosion of Iron and Steel," written by myself last spring, is severely criticized. Dr. Cushman states that this paragraph is,

> based upon an analysis of a single market sample which was manufactured in the early days of a new industry.

And also that I should not have included a paragraph in a scientific review, written in such a manner that it could be reprinted and used in a commercial contest with the object of producing a false impression.

Dr. Cushman concludes his two-page communication with a paragraph commencing,

> It would appear to the writer [Dr. Cushman] that there is such a thing as professional ethics in respect to the scientific treatment of scientific books reviewed in a scientific journal, and that such reviews should not be used to introduce false impressions to be afterwards touted about the country as "salesmen's arguments."

Dr. Cushman is surely correct in his assumption that there is such a thing as professional ethics in respect to the scientific treatment of scientific books, but why should he limit such ethics to a review in a scientific journal? Why not extend such ethics to the treatment of scientific books in advertising literature where such scientific books are so quoted as "to introduce false impressions to be afterwards touted about the country as 'salesmen's arguments.'"

The paragraph in the review so strenuously objected to was written not to spread a false impression, but to correct one; not in disregard of professional ethics, but as a consequence of following professional ethics. The review was written for the readers of Science, at the request of its editor, and if it has been reprinted in whole or in part for any purpose whatever I have been and am in entire ignorance of such fact.

The paragraph which is objected to is as follows:

> It is a matter of regret that the author has been misled, as have also the reviewer and others, by giving credence to statements and data supplied by the American Rolling Mill Co., of Middletown, Ohio, which he publishes on pages 114, 250, 276 and 351, regarding the purity of this firm's product. For example, the material said to have the analysis published on page 114, as containing 99.954 per cent. iron, and which on page 276 is proposed as a standard for pure iron on which to base a corrosion factor, was later found by the author himself, much to his surprise, to contain .172 per cent. copper.

The "author" here referred to is of course Dr. Friend, and the analysis is one supplied

him by the American Rolling Mill Co. Now Dr. Cushman contends that this analysis, and hence the opinions based upon it, is untrustworthy because it represents but a single sample; because the sample was of early manufacture; because it does not represent the present product of the American Rolling Mill Co. He does not object to the analysis because it is wrong. And yet the firm in whose defence Dr. Cushman so valiantly struggles quotes on pages 8 and 9 of its booklet "Public Opinion on American Ingot Iron," copyrighted in 1912, and distributed to the public as late as last July, these very pages, 114 and 115, of Dr. Friend's book, on which are given in full this analysis and opinions based upon it. If it is ethical for Dr. Cushman or the American Rolling Mill Co. to take advantage of an error (for which it is responsible) in a scientific book, and to print this as advertising matter and to place before the public what is not true, it surely is not a breach of ethics for me to print in a scientific journal a correction of this error and to state what is true.

Why limit professional ethics to scientific book reviews?

WILLIAM H. WALKER

THE INHERITANCE OF ACQUIRED PIGMENTATION

THE brief article on "The Inheritance of Skin Color" in SCIENCE for August 2, by Dr. H. E. Jordan, of the University of Virginia, contains among other matters the following speculation:

> The fact of the apparent histologic identity between brunette and mulatto skins; and the further fact that under protracted exposure to extremes of heat and sun the number of pigment granules is increased in white skin, indicates that pigmentation (dark skin) as evidenced in the negro is an instance of the inheritance of an acquired character. The least that makes a negro a negro is his dark skin. Life-guards in September are frequently almost as black. A negro is specifically such for mental perhaps more than for physical characteristics. . . .

Dr. Jordan certainly fares far afield in offering two opinions—(1) the transmission of an acquired character, (2) that a negro is a negro more for his mental than his physical characters, against all of the verifiable facts and experiments now available.

Although the peculiar fact of negro pigmentation and its origin can not be experimentally tested, the experiment of increasing and decreasing pigmentation by segregation is open to all of us. The work so voluminously before us on rats, mice, guinea-pigs, cattle, poultry and other animals are one hundred per cent. against Dr. Jordan's unfounded speculation of pigmentation (in the negro or in a blue mouse) as an instance of the acquired character afterwards inherited. Segregation in the dark African jungles has all the experimental proof in its favor.

That the negro is specifically a negro "for mental perhaps more than for physical characteristics" is another opinion not supported by the verifiable facts. The kinky hair, thick lips, pigmentation, extensive genitalia and prepuce, nasal formation, weight of skull, length and thickness of bones, and the other physical peculiarities of the African are, to put it mildly, as much the biometrician's, the anthropologist's as the layman's method of diagnosing the negro from another race. I should like to learn of the mental differences.

It seems to me unnecessary to discuss Dr. Jordan's opinion that the Italians, Spanish and Anglo-Saxon brunettes "may owe their pigmentation to negroid ancestry."

LEONARD KEENE HIRSHBERG
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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Theoretische Astronomie. Von W. KLINKERFUES. Dritte verbesserte und vermehrte Ausgabe, bearbeitet von Professor Dr. H. BUCHHOLZ. XXXVIII., 1067 u. 12 S. 4°. Mit 67 Abbild. In stark. Leinenband 50 M. Verlag von Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn in Braunschweig.

The first edition of Klinkerfues's "Theoretische Astronomie" appeared in the year 1870, shortly after the publication of the classical treatises of Watson and Oppolzer, and in the intervening years has been an indispensable source of information to those in-