

celluloid, cut in strips seven or eight inches wide, and rolled into cylinders, are thrust into the wire tube. This makes a cylinder that is soil-tight, transparent and durable. With reasonable use it will last several seasons, though the celluloid may crack or become scratched and opaque. They prove very satisfactory for capillary rise experiments and are excellent for studying distribution of water, as the inner tube can be withdrawn and unrolled, exposing the soil for easy sampling.

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#### LEE'S "INTRODUCTION TO BOTANY"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: For a particular purpose I wish much to see a copy of James Lee's "Introduction to Botany," published in London in 1760, the first edition. I have inquired, but in vain, of all the large libraries in the United States, though all of them have later editions. Can any reader of SCIENCE tell me where a copy may be found in this country?

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#### THE LEONHARD EULER SOCIETY

It is well known that in 1909 the Swiss Naturforschende Gesellschaft resolved to publish the works of the extremely prolific and famous mathematician Euler. The estimated cost for the complete edition of over 40 large quarto volumes was supposed to be approximately \$100,000 and was covered by about 400 subscribers (25 francs per volume, or \$80,000 by subscription) and the so-called Euler-Fund resulting from contributions of governing bodies, scientific societies, industrial establishments and private persons.

So far six volumes have appeared and a seventh is in press. The work is apparently very carefully edited, and the typography is perfect.

Unfortunately the experience gained by the publication of the first volumes and the fact that a large number of additional papers and

letters recently found among the documents of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg and in various other places will increase the total number of volumes show that the original estimate of cost is not nearly enough to guarantee a successful completion of the entire undertaking.

In order to partly meet an expected deficit of \$40,000 it is proposed to found a *Leonhard Euler Society* with unlimited membership. The annual dues will be 10 francs (about \$2) and membership is merely an honorary obligation to contribute to the success of a great scientific enterprise.

The originality and importance of Euler's writings, even at the present time, make it very desirable to have a uniform edition of all his works and it is so hoped that the appeal of the Swiss society will be generously answered by scientific circles.

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Fixité de la Côte Atlantique de l'Amérique du Nord.* By DOUGLAS W. JOHNSON.

The quite harmonious interpretation of coast-level changes along the American Atlantic, made by scores of clean-witted and experienced observers through scores of years, are here briefly scrutinized and fundamentally contested. The supposed ups and downs of the Atlantic coast, which have been so carefully and abundantly recorded from Gaspé to the Carolinas, had promulgated a widely accepted notion that the North Atlantic seaboard was very uneasy, still undergoing warpings which might well have been in direct inheritance of its ancient Appalachian instability. Dr. Johnson's paper under the above title is not quite new, its date being rather more than a year back, but in these prolific and harlequin days of scientific ideas, it takes a little while for the leaven of reformation to register its effect. There are many excellent reasons for not taking grave exception to Dr. Johnson's general conclusion that the eastern American land is as a whole in fairly stable equilibrium—that is to say, is not now