been granted a year's leave of absence for travel and study abroad, and Dean E. K. Graham has been appointed to act in his stead; Professor M. H. Stacy, of the department of civil engineering, will act as dean of the college of liberal arts in place of Professor Graham; Robert L. James, C.E. (Cornell), has been appointed assistant professor of drawing; Parker H. Daggett, S.B. (Harvard), has been promoted from associate professor of electrical engineering to full professor in charge of the department; James M. Bell, Ph.D. (Cornell), formerly associate professor of physical chemistry, becomes full professor; W. L. Jeffries, A.M. (University of North Carolina), has been appointed instructor in chemistry.

Dr. P. G. Stiles, assistant professor of physiology at Simmons College, has been elected instructor in physiology in Harvard University.

Dr. Karl von Auwers, professor of chemistry at Greifswald, has accepted a call to Marburg, as successor to Professor Th. Zincke.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

COLOR CORRELATION IN GARDEN BEANS

The note by Professor Hedrick on page 917 about the correlation of the color of the inside of the calyx cup and flesh of the peach is interesting. A similar correlation in garden beans has recently been observed at this station.

The blossom colors of many varieties of beans have been described as either white, light pink or pink, and most of the common varieties can readily be referred to one of these classes, though some varieties of the several classes may differ slightly among themselves in the depth and distribution of color.

There seem to be definite and constant correlations between these blossom colors and the color of the seed coat. A white or eyed bean is always white flowered unless possibly when the eye is very large. A white-flowered variety may have mottled or self-colored beans, but a genuine black pigment, such as seen in the black wax varieties, never accompanies a white or light pink, but always a pink flower. I do not recall any exception to this last. The bean may be pure black or mottled, with black appearing in the mottling, but in either case the flower is a pretty constant shade of pink. Sometimes a light pink flower may be associated with very dark colored seeds, yet their color is distinct from the genuine black of the black wax beans.

In general light pink flowers are associated with mottled or self-colored seeds of various shades of yellow, red and brown, but, as indicated above, never with a genuine black pigment, nor with white or eyed beans unless possibly when the eye is very large. It is probably due to the various seed coat colors that the flowers classed as light pink vary as much as they do among themselves; they are not as uniform as those classed as pink.

Just where the connection is between the blossom and seed coat color is not obvious but it is certain that there is some connection. Not only are the times of manifestation of the colors far apart, but there is no obvious resemblance between the colors. Why should a black bean arise from a pink or more exactly a purplish pink flower? Yet there must be some connection, and it would seem reasonable to believe that they arise from a common cause: that the plant possesses some pigment-producing substance capable of producing one color in the flower and an apparently entirely different color in the seed coat.

J. K. Shaw

Massachusetts Experiment Station,
Amherst, Mass.

A NEW METHOD FOR LABELING MICROSCOPIC SLIDES

It is very desirable that permanent microscopic mounts have permanent labels. Ordinary labels, even if of the best manufacture, are unsatisfactory, because the adhesive property of the glue becomes impaired with age. The so-called "Diamond Ink" which may be easily applied to glass, produces an etched surface which may be written upon and a permanent label obtained. This ink, however, is only sold by certain firms and as a consequence is not easily obtained.

this laboratory successfully is merely printing or writing the necessary description upon the slide with India ink. "Higgin's Waterproof (Black) India Ink," such as is sold at all book and stationery stores, is the ink used; a crow-quill drawing pen completes the outfit. The only necessary precaution to take in its application is to have the writing surface free from oily matter. This is removed simply by breathing on the slide and wiping briskly with a dry cloth.

The label so made is permanent as far as ordinary treatment is concerned. Xylol may be used freely to dissolve any cedar oil or balsam on the mount, with no injury whatever to the label; only a prolonged soaking in water would impair its permanence and such an occurrence would only be accidental.

This form of label has the advantage over that of the etched surface in that it may be as easily removed as applied; the whole label or portions may be changed by removing the unnecessary word, letters or figures with a penknife when the ink is thoroughly dry, or the whole label may be removed by rubbing off with a damp cloth. The India ink label because of its nature is more easily read than any other form of label.

A trial of this method will convince any one of its practical value.

ZAE NORTHRUP
MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,
EAST LANSING

THE METRIC SYSTEM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The attention of the writer was attracted to an article in a recent number of SCIENCE by A. H. Patterson, of Chapel Hill, N. C., in which he refers to the "wickedly brain-destroying piece of bondage under which we suffer" on account of the system of weights and measures in common use among the American people.

The only thing that the present system has to commend it to general use, if it has any redeeming quality at all, is that it is easier to follow along a beaten path than to make a change for the better.

The metric system is a simple, sensible, scientific and easily operated system of units and the best system that has ever been devised. That the metric system is practicable has been effectively demonstrated, for it is the universal system of scientific laboratories and it is high time that a strong public sentiment be created in favor of its general adoption. No doubt "a great part of the under-weight and false-measure frauds are due to our confused system of units."

It seems that the chief arguments against the adoption of the metric system are: first, the expense to manufacturers and commercial houses in connection with making the change; and second, the difficulty that would be encountered in educating the employers up to a new system. In the opinion of the writer neither of these difficulties is as serious as some people would try to have us believe and it is chiefly "selfish interests which are blocking the way of reform."

The cooperation of all scientists, the various reform leagues, the government bureaus and as many others as possible should be enlisted for the passage of the bill in favor of the metric system at as early a date as possible.

A. F. GILMAN
RIPON COLLEGE

THE YELLOWSTONE PARK

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have tramped, with knapsack and sleeping bag, more than a thousand miles through the wildest and roughest parts of the Rocky Mountains, camping out in the cheapest and most primitive fashion; and every one will understand, I think, that it is not as a molly-coddle that I say, from my experience during the summer of 1911, that the bear in Yellowstone Park are an outrageous nuisance.

I know of no more flagrant example of detached, red-taped sophistry than this: "A few instances are on record where people have been attacked and injured by bears" but "in all cases where the facts were known the person injured was more or less to blame."[1] In

[1] See letter of Jesse L. Smith in SCIENCE of June 20.