mathematics in the University of Calcutta, for the purpose of organizing there a new school of higher mathematics. As the duties of the post require his residence in India only from November to March, it has been arranged that he shall retain his professorship in Liverpool University.

MR. HAROLD PEALING, Liverpool, has been appointed lecturer in physics in the South African College, Cape Town.

DR. ALEXANDER TORNQUIST, of Königsberg, has been invited to the chair of geology and paleontology at Leipzig.

PROFESSOR HIS, of Berlin, who was asked to accept the appointment of director of the medical clinic, at Vienna, as successor of Professor von Noorden, has declined.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PECULIAR DERMAL ELEMENT IN CHIMÆROID FISHES

WHEN recently in Washington, I was kindly allowed by Dr. Hugh M. Smith to examine the type of *Chimæra deani* Smith and Radcliffe (Philippine Islands), to see if I could discover any scale-like dermal structures hitherto unreported. Gently scraping the side of the animal, I readily procured a number of small scale-like objects, which when mounted and examined with a microscope were seen to be strongly curved rods, taking very nearly the form of a horseshoe, or of oval rings with the lower end cut off. They measured about 640 microns in one direction and 500 across, with the free ends somewhat tapering. Frequently several were attached together in a series, the top of each about 130 microns above the top of the one following. Being much interested in these peculiar structures, I asked Dr. Smith to send me material of other chimæroids, and this he very kindly did. In a young *Hydrolagus colliei* (Bennett), 5 inches long, I found the structures *in situ*. A mucus canal about 2,180 microns below the dorsal denticles was lined with these horseshoe-like structures, placed obliquely a short distance apart, so that each one partly overlapped two others, as seen from above. The free ends project along the margins of the canal, which is widely open above, and the structures obviously serve to keep the canal in shape and open.

In the works of Garman, Dean, Bridge, Jordan, etc., I find no mention of these structures; but they may have been recorded in some work not accessible to me in Colorado.

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LABELING MICROSCOPIC SLIDES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I was interested in the note published in SCIENCE, by Zea Northrup, in the July 25 issue, on "A New Method for Labeling Microscopic Slides," for I have been following that method for the last five years. I have found it a very successful way in which to obtain a permanent, clear designation for the slides. It is especially valuable in labeling serial sections, for, as soon as the ribbon has been firmly attached to the slides, the glass near the end of the ribbon is easily cleaned and the label then passes through the remaining parts of the process, until finally it is covered with the balsam and cover glass. This gives complete permanency to the writing and only the destruction of the slide will result in the loss of the label. In this connection it may be interesting to some to speak of two features of numbering slides which, though probably not used exclusively by the writer, he has never seen adopted by other workers. In numbering a long series of slides which contain consecutive sections from one imbedded object it is convenient to assign a decimal number to the individual slides. The practise of the writer has been to assign a whole number to the entire embedding of a certain object preceded by the last two figures of the year number; thus if a certain flower bud is the second piece of imbedding which I have done this year the number of that flower bud is 132. Then the first slide cut from that imbedding is 132.1, or the fifteenth slide is 132.15. It may also occur that more than one piece of an object is included under the serial number 132, in which case the slide number for the fifteenth