

terian College at Montreal, \$60,000, and to Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, \$100,000. In addition to this sum he bequeathed to the Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal \$500,000, and to hospitals in the British Isles, \$90,000. The bequest to Yale University is

for the promotion of the modern sciences, and for instruction in the practical questions arising from the application of scientific knowledge to the industrial, social and economical problems of the times, it being my special desire to have the said sum expended so far as in the opinion of my trustees may be deemed advisable for instruction in civil and mechanical engineering, with special reference to the construction, equipment and operation of transportation of passengers and freight, whether by land or water, and the financial and legislative questions involved.

THROUGH the will of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Mattox, of Terre Haute, the sum of \$45,000 will be added to the general endowment of De Pauw University.

MRS. WILLIAM PORTER HERRICK, widow of the late William Porter Herrick, has given to the University of Colorado, \$5,000, to be used as an aid fund for worthy students.

SIR HILDRED CARLILE, M. P., has given \$500,000 to Bedford College, London, as a memorial to his mother, Mrs. Edward Carlile.

DR. HUGO FROMMSDORFF, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate, has given \$5,000 to the University of Heidelberg for a foundation for the advancement of chemistry.

ACCORDING to the daily press President Edmund J. James, of the University of Illinois, called, on February 3, a meeting of the faculty and announced that he had received reports that he did not possess the confidence and support of the faculty without which he did not wish to retain the presidency. The faculty in secret ballot by a vote of 188 to 4 declared confidence in President James.

It is announced that Dr. Frank J. Goodnow, Eaton professor of administrative law and municipal science at Columbia University, at present constitutional adviser of the Chinese Republic in Peking, has been offered the presidency of the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. M. A. BRANNON, professor of biology in the University of North Dakota and dean of the college of liberal arts, has been elected president of the University of Idaho.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

LABELLING MICROSCOPIC SLIDES

WITHIN the last year or so SCIENCE has published four short articles on labelling slides.¹ From this it would seem to be a subject of some interest. I have therefore ventured to add a method which I have been using with entire satisfaction for some time past.

The objections to scratching slides or other glassware with a diamond or carborundum is that the label can not be removed, if for any reason this is necessary. Another objection that is equally serious is the difficulty of making clear and legible labels where several words must be written. These reasons led me to abandon this method long ago.

Marking with wax pencils is of doubtful value owing to the extreme care necessary to avoid removing the label through contact with xylol or by mere rubbing. My own experience with waterproof ink has been that it is also too easily rubbed off or washed off while passing slides through water or aqueous stains.

Etching or grinding the surface of the slide is satisfactory where the surface thus prepared is to be used frequently but is entirely too troublesome for ordinary slides. Moreover, the pencil label is not always easily legible.

I now use an ordinary india ink (l'encre de chine) to which I have added a little ordinary water glass (sodium silicate solution) such as is sold at the corner drug store for preserving eggs. It is usually better to thin, after adding the water glass, with enough water to make the ink flow freely. With this ink one can write with a fine pointed pen any label that he

¹ A. F. Blakeslee, "A Labelling Surface for Glassware," SCIENCE, 37: 561, 1913; Zae Nor-
thrup, "A New Method for Labelling Microscopic
Slides," SCIENCE, 38: 126, 1913; Ernest Shaw
Reynolds, "Labelling Microscopic Slides," SCI-
ENCE, 38: 363, 1913; Frank E. Blaisdell, "Label-
ling Microscopic Slides," SCIENCE, 38: 665, 1913.

would have been able to write on paper. It can be put on the slide as soon as the paraffin ribbon has been mounted. If the slide was clean when the label was written, water, alcohol and xylol may be applied to it freely without any danger of injury. Ordinary abrasion such as the slide frequently encounters in use will not in any wise affect the permanency of these labels. They can, however, be scratched off easily with a dull knife (or scrubbed off with scouring soap). A white paper label pasted on the *back* of the slide will make it even more conspicuous.

LANCE BURLINGAME

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA,

January 14, 1914

A NEW NAME FOR THE MARMOT OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

MR. ARTHUR H. HOWELL has called my attention to the fact that the name applied by me to the large marmot from the Moose Pass branch of the Smoky River, Alberta, *Marmota sibirica*,¹ is preoccupied by *Arctomys sibirica* Wolf.² The marmot of the Moose Pass region may be called *Marmota oxytona*.

N. HOLLISTER

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,

November 5, 1913

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Mathematical Monographs. Edited by MANSFIELD MERRIMAN and ROBERT S. WOODWARD. No. 12. *The Theory of Relativity.* By ROBERT D. CARMICHAEL. New York, John Wiley & Sons. 1913. Pp. 74.

Unlike most presentations of the theory of relativity, which contain a considerable amount of technical mathematical physics, Carmichael's is non-technical and logical in the same way that the discussion of the foundation principles of geometry or mechanics or chemistry might be made non-technical and logical. The book may, therefore, be read with ease by the mathematician who has little or no knowledge of modern physics or by the physicist

¹ Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 56, No. 35, p. 1, February 7, 1912.

² Linne's "Natursystem," Vol. 2, p. 481, 1808.

who is unacquainted with mathematical analysis; it might be read by the engineer or, for the most part, by the philosopher. The work is in no sense a mere compilation from the investigations of previous authors, but represents a considerable amount of independent investigation of which the major part has appeared in contributions to the *Physical Review*.

The strongest and most satisfactory part of the book is that dealing with the statement of the postulates upon which the theory is built and with the direct consequences of the postulates. Less final and satisfactory are those parts where the physical theories (as distinguished from the results of physical experiments) which might conceivably underlie the theory are mentioned. This lack of finality and satisfaction is, however, quite unavoidable in these latter days when so many phenomena apparently subversive of long-accepted notions are constantly being unveiled. One has only to read the report on "La Théorie du Rayonnement et les Quanta,"¹ of the colloquium held at Brussels in 1911 to see in what a state of partial bewilderment and contradiction are the leading physicists of our time. The riot of new hypothesis and theory in the last volume (No. 26) of the *Philosophical Magazine* is a similar indication.

The author abstains from electromagnetic theory and confines his attention to the relation of the theory of relativity to the concepts of length and time, of mass and energy; he has, however, to mention that fundamental unit of electricity, the electron. He does well to emphasize the independence of the theory of any hypothesis as to the existence or non-existence of the ether, even though he subsequently finds it useful to make use of the ether in discussing the physical nature of mass. He could profitably have gone a little more into detail with regard to the relation between the ether and relativity.

Once we admit the existence of a stagnant ether, we have at hand at least a logical fixed system of reference; we may logically speak of

¹ Langevin and Broglie, Gauthier-Villars, 1912.