

has nearly the value of that used in the "ordinary English system," and this may be regarded as an advantage.² The unit in "ordinary" use, however, is not and never will be the exact "standard" pound, because for almost all practical purposes the refinement of distinguishing between "local" and "standard" gravity-pull is of no importance. For precise work there appears to be absolutely no choice between the system which makes $K=32.1740$ and that which makes $K=1$ except that the latter simplifies the fundamental equation and all equations depending upon it.

Mr. Kent thinks the C.G.S. system "should not be inflicted on young students" because it is "only used in higher physical theory." The great majority of those who study mechanics are preparing for the profession of engineering. In view of the fact that in a large and increasingly important part of the present-day field of engineering—applied electricity—the units employed are based upon the C.G.S. system, it is difficult to assent to the view expressed by Mr. Kent on this point.

L. M. HOSKINS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,
March 29, 1915

CONDITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In view of the fact that seventeen members of the faculty of the University of Utah have resigned their positions on the ground that it seemed to them "impossible to retain their self-respect and remain in the university," the council of the American Association of University Professors has authorized the appointment of a committee of inquiry to report upon the case. At the request of the president, the secretary of the

² The same advantage may be retained with the simpler equation (2) if we permit quantity of matter to be expressed in terms of a unit other than the pound. Why the reduction of quantity of matter from pounds to units 32.1740 times as great as the pound should be regarded as more puzzling than the reduction from pounds to tons or the reduction of a length from inches to feet, is something I have never been able to comprehend.

association recently spent four days in Salt Lake City investigating the situation in the university and collecting evidence to be laid before the committee. The special purposes and scope of the investigation are indicated in the extract from the letter addressed by the secretary of the association to the president of the university, which was printed in the issue of SCIENCE for last week.

The report of the committee of inquiry will be prepared and published at as early a date as is practicable. It is the purpose of the committee to present all the pertinent facts so fully in its report that university teachers may judge for themselves as to the administrative methods, and the conditions of professorial service, in the university. We make this statement in order that any one who is considering either the acceptance of a position in the university or the recommending of others for such a position, may look forward to a full knowledge of the situation in the near future, and may postpone immediate action in case he deems such knowledge advisable before reaching a final decision.

JOHN DEWEY,

President of the American Association of University Professors,

A. O. LOVEJOY,

Secretary of the American Association of University Professors,

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN,

Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry

April 30, 1915

UNNATURAL HISTORY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am sure your readers will be interested and instructed, and the monotony of their daily grind relieved, by the following information regarding hitherto unsuspected details in the life history of the kangaroo. These facts were given out by a university student in response to the question: "Explain how the young kangaroo obtains its nourishment."

"Immediately after birth they are swallowed by the mother and finally lodged directly over the breasts, the teats being directed inwards.

Here, in their mother's heart the young marsupials are nourished for some time, when they are expelled from the mother fully developed and ready to begin life."

C. C. NUTTING

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Infection and Resistance. By PROFESSOR HANS ZINSSER, Professor of Bacteriology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York City. The Macmillan Company, 1914. Pp. 546. Illustrated. \$3.50.

This work is conspicuously the most thorough and modern original treatment of the subject of infection and immunity that we have in the English language. The author's own work in the field of immunology, citations to which are frequently made in the text, makes the book authoritative.

We find in the book an exhaustive and impartial analysis of the enormous accumulation of recent work in this field with a wealth of references to original sources given at the bottom of the pages. The survey of the subject is complete, and yet each chapter is a unit in itself, making the book a convenient reference in which to gain a knowledge of any one phase of immunity. This unit arrangement of the chapters has necessitated some repetition, but not to an extent to become boresome.

The text is not intended to be elementary or summary and can not be recommended for the average reader or undergraduate student. It can be most cordially recommended to practitioners, teachers, laboratory workers and especially as a text for medical students for whom it is primarily intended.

Starting with the general problem of Virulence, the author discusses successively the Bacterial Poisons, Natural and Acquired Immunity, Antitoxins, Cytolysis, Complement and Diagnosis, Agglutination, Precipitation, Phagocytosis (four chapters), Anaphylaxis (three chapters), Therapeutic Immunization, and a chapter on Abderhalden's Work on Protective Ferments. Dr. Stewart W. Young has been invited to write a concluding chapter on Colloids, which gives a comprehensive idea

of the nature of this state of matter, and the relation of colloids to biological problems.

The chapter on Therapeutic Immunization in Man might be criticized on account of its brevity in contrast to the rest of the book. It seems to the reviewer as though it could be made more effective even in the space allotted by the introduction of more data to show the efficacy of our marvelous advances in immunology.

C. M. HILLIARD

The Differentiation and Specificity of Starches in relation to Genera, Species, etc. Stereochemistry applied to Protoplasmic Processes and Products, and as a Strictly Scientific Basis for the Classification of Plants and Animals. By EDWARD TYSON REICHERT, M.D., Professor of Physiology in the University of Pennsylvania, Research Associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In two parts. Published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C. 1913. Pp. 900, plates 102.

The author intends that the present memoir on starches shall have a relation to the memoir on hemoglobins worked out by Reichert and Brown and reviewed in SCIENCE (January 27, 1911). If there is a relationship between these two memoirs it is rather in what Dr. Reichert has attempted to perform than in what he has succeeded in accomplishing. The two memoirs are so different that a comparison of them is well-nigh impossible. In the one, we almost see the master and in the other the novice. The memoir on hemoglobins represents a painstaking research and is an important contribution to biology. The memoir on starches, in its present form, is hardly worthy to be classed as research, particularly in view of the splendid monograph of Naegeli which has been reputed to be among the greatest investigations of the last century. In the work on hemoglobins, through the cooperation of Dr. Brown, the exact methods of physical crystallography have been employed and it is to be expected that in the hands of different investigators confirmatory results will be obtained in the examination of the crystals of the various hemoglobins. In the present memoir on