unique natural history survey of the Chicago area, first organized by Dr. W. K. Higby (now deceased), who for many years was secretary of the academy, was largely carried on by Mr. Baker; the educational installations in the museum of the academy were also prepared under his direction. His address for the summer will be 1555 Highland Avenue, Rochester, N. Y.

THE Croonian lectures before the Royal College of Physicians of London were announced to be delivered on June 17, 22, 24 and 29, by Surgeon General Sir David Bruce, C.B., F.R.S. The subject of the lectures was "Trypanosomes Causing Disease in Man and Domestic Animals in Central Africa."

DR. SHIPLEY, master of Christ's College, Cambridge, gave a lecture for the National Health Society, on flies, lice and minor horrors of war, at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine, on June 16.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. BARTON A. HEPBURN, of New York, is to present to Middlebury College a men's dormitory costing nearly $200,000. Mr. Hepburn received his degree of A.B. at Middlebury. The building, on which work is to be started at once, will be five stories of marble or granite, in keeping with the other college buildings.

THE Massachusetts Agricultural College has recently received $4,000 by the will of Major Henry E. Alvord, formerly chief of the dairy division of the Department of Agriculture.

THE late Dr. W. Aldis Wright, vice-master of Trinity College, has bequeathed the sum of £5,000 for the use of the library of the University of Cambridge.

DR. RUBY CUNNINGHAM has been appointed instructor in hygiene and an infirmary physician in the infirmary of the University of California.

RAYMOND B. ROBBINS, Ph.D., has been appointed instructor in mathematics in the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

AT Western Reserve University new appointments have been made as follows: Arthur Dunn Pitcher, Ph.D., professor of mathematics; Jesse E. Hyde, A.M., associate professor of geology; John M. Stetson, Ph.D., instructor in mathematics; William Henry Weston, Jr., A.M., instructor in biology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

EDITORIAL SUPERVISION FOR EXPERIMENT STATION PUBLICATIONS

THE *Experiment Station Record* for April, 1914, contains a pertinent plea for the need of judicious criticism of agricultural experimentation. The following is written in order to direct special attention to this need in experiment-station publications. It is furthermore desired to suggest that the general adoption of certain policies now employed in many of the experiment stations would eliminate from publications such glaring features as poor English and poor literary style, loose and inexact statements, improper use of technical terms, failure to recognize the existence of published works of a similar nature or the bearing of the results secured upon related fields of science, drawing conclusions not warranted by the data in hand, and the publication of superficial or inconclusive work. One needs only to consult the recent publications in order to convince himself that all of these offences have been committed and it is logical to suppose that they will continue to be committed unless measures for their prevention are put into operation.

The following quotations, taken at random from scores of their kind, will suffice to illustrate the need of criticism. "The fungus was run on artificial media," "The appressoria were round, black bodies, from an eighth to a quarter inch in diameter," "Infection experiments were tried with cultures in the open and in the greenhouse," "Infected plants can be distinguished by a thin growth," "They (pycnidia) are hollow within," "No peas have been reported to be attacked by the eel worm out of doors." These statements have been chosen only because of my better famil-

iarity with botanical literature than with other fields of work, and it is not to be presumed that botanists alone among the staffs of experiment stations have offended science and the Queen's English. It is felt that the inclusion, in circulars and bulletins, of statements of this sort is due entirely to a lack of criticism in the preparation of manuscripts. It is perhaps not fully realized that publications are permanent records which are to be regarded as the product of the institution as well as of the author, and that the character of the publication, for which the several officers of the station are jointly responsible, therefore reflects their joint ability.

In order to learn how much editorial and censorial supervision manuscripts receive and to what extent the individual members of the station staffs are actually responsible for the character of the publications, a questionnaire was sent to the director of each of the agricultural experiment stations. Forty-six replies were received. Five of these report that a special officer, known as publicist or editor, censors all manuscripts submitted for publication with respect both to form and to content, and that he, together with the directors, has the power to withhold or to reject any manuscripts submitted. In eighteen of the stations the director alone exercises this censorship. In twenty-three the manuscripts for all bulletins and circulars are submitted to an editorial committee. This committee is variously constituted but in conjunction with the director it exercises all the powers and prerogatives of a board of editors. Certain stations have a standing committee who edit all manuscripts, and others a special committee whose personnel consists of those officers most interested in the particular subject concerning which a publication is desired.

It is realized, of course, that there is a greater complexity of organization in the larger experiment stations than in the smaller. It might be granted too that there is a greater need for the organization of editorial committees in the larger institutions with their greater number of projects for investigation and consequently their greater number of publications. Naturally the officers in the several different departments will be less closely associated with each other and consequently less familiar with the nature of the various problems under investigation in the larger stations.

There are those, not in every station perhaps, who, through lack of ability to express themselves or through lack of training and experience in their own or related fields, would be spared the caustic criticism of their colleagues and of the reading public if their manuscripts had been subjected both to a constructive and to a destructive criticism prior to publication. Too much emphasis can not be placed on the fact that much of the value of a piece of work is lost if it is not carefully written both with respect to syntax and to the employment of such words as convey the author's intended shades and tints of meaning. One does not credit experimentation which is inaccurately reported. It only reflects discredit on the institution, on the author, and on the other members of the station staff. Experiment station publications can not attain the high standard of merit maintained by the scientific journals until a means is provided to secure adequate, critical, editorial supervision of all manuscripts.

FREDERICK A. WOLF
ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE,
AUBURN, ALA.

A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE FOR THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SHELL EGGS

THE eggs are first immersed in a strong soap solution (the standard soap solution used in water analysis has been found to be very satisfactory) and scrubbed with a small brush to remove any adherent dirt and hen feces; then they are thoroughly dried in a clean towel and immersed in a mercuric chloride solution (1:1,000) and allowed to remain about five minutes.

The egg is now removed from the mercuric chloride solution, care being taken to handle it by the small end, and without drying it is put into 60–70 per cent. alcohol, where it is allowed to remain a few minutes.

Again handling the egg by the small end it is placed upon a three-inch clay triangle (which