little creatures crowded into such small spaces is a marvel, but it is proof also of the extreme abundance and all-pervading character of the swarm.

The large lamp in the cabin, with a chimney of a capacity of perhaps a gallon, I was told, had been snuffed several times by the crowding insects. On a spread newspaper nearby lay a pile of the insects which had been dumped from the chimney. There were fully enough to have completely filled the chimney—an innumerable mass. From this collection I gathered some specimens for identification. The Chironomids, which were largely in the majority, have been identified by J. R. Malloch as *Chironomous halteralis* Coquillet, *C. modestus* Say, and *Tanytarsus* sp. The Trichoptera identified by Nathan Banks are *Œcetina incerta* Walker, and *Oxyethira dorsalis* Banks. No representatives of other orders were noted.

W. L. McATEE

## ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF ELECTRICAL UNITS

THE present cumbrous method of describing the electrical units in the electrostatic and electromagnetic systems suggests the advisability of the adoption of an abbreviated nomenclature which, while being simple, may be sufficiently descriptive. An attempt in this direction has been made by Messrs. Franklin and MacNutt in their text-book "The Elements of Electricity and Magnetism." In it "ab," the first syllable of the word "absolute," is prefixed to the names of the practical units to designate the corresponding units of the electromagnetic system. It appears to the writer that a similar abbreviation might with advantage be employed in the case of the electrostatic system, and he suggests the use of the prefix "es" for the electrostatic system and, possibly, the use of the prefix "em" instead of "ab" for the electromagnetic system. Thus the elementary charge of electricity would no longer be described as "$4.7 \times 10^{-10}$ electrostatic units of quantity (or charge)," but as "$4.7 \times 10^{-10}$ escoulombs." Similarly, the ratio of electronic charge to mass would not be expressed as "$1.7 \times 10^{7}$ electromagnetic units of quantity (or charge) per gram," but as "$1.7 \times 10^{7}$ emcoulombs per gram." Certain written abbreviations naturally follow, thus: esc = escoulomb, emc = emcoulomb, esa = esampere, and so on. This system of nomenclature may be extended to the so-called "rational systems" by using "res" instead of "es" and "rem" instead of "em."

It is hoped that the use of some abbreviated system of nomenclature may become common, and the foregoing is offered as a possible contribution toward that end.

A. E. CASWELL

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON,
October 14, 1915

## COOPERATION IN LABELLING MUSEUMS

THE Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior of Canada published thirty duplicates of the larger labels of those making up its Handbook of the Rocky Mountains Park Museum. This was done with the intention of offering them through the Museum of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, Canada, to the thirty then known museums in Canada. The survey offered the labels to the museums. Seventeen of them requested certain of the labels and were supplied, being given to understand that these labels were for use only until better labels were available. It is intended to publish from time to time a revised and more complete handbook and to print separates of a larger number of the labels composing it. An edition of at least sixty duplicates will then be desirable, as there are now known to be that many museums, counting both large and small, in Canada.

The writing of the labels and the typesetting of the first edition has already served twenty-two purposes, namely, to produce the handbook of the museum, to partly label the Rocky Mountains Park Museum, to place labels referring to the museum, zoo, paddock and park in the railway station and hotels at Banff, to label some of the animals in the zoo of the park, to label all the local animals in the paddock of the park and to assist in labelling seventeen other Canadian museums. There is a daily prospect of having requests for such