

an average of \$4.25 a ton, was obtained and sold from the coal-gas plants in 1915. Including by-product, the output of which in 1915 was 14,072,895 tons, valued at \$48,558,325, the coke and retort carbon produced in the United States was 15,796,461 tons, valued at \$55,964,239. The value of the tar, ammonia, benzol products, naphthalene and coke produced in the United States in 1915 was \$80,816,975.

THE *Electrical World* notes that the great scarcity of potash has almost crippled many of the industries in this country, notable among others being the glass industry. The glass used in making incandescent electric lamp bulbs is a very special kind that must withstand sudden changes of temperature and also great pressure. Heretofore it has been thought that only glass made with a certain amount of potash was suitable for the lamp industry. The outbreak of the war two years ago cut off all supply of potash from Germany and threatened the supply of glass. The research chemists of the General Electric Company, however, succeeded in producing a glass for making incandescent electric lamp bulbs by replacing potash with soda in the glass mixture. This glass, it has been stated, has proved superior to the old potash glass; so much so, indeed, that from now on potash glass will no longer be used. The world supply of potash comes almost entirely from Stassfurt in Germany, because the natural deposits there have been cheaper to work than any other known source. The sources of supply in the United States have proved utterly inadequate to meet the great demand of the industries. Soda, on the other hand, is produced from ordinary table salt, great natural deposits of which are to be found in different parts of the country.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. THOMAS F. HOLGATE, professor of mathematics in Northwestern University and dean of the college of liberal arts, has been elected by the trustees *ad interim* president of the university, on the recommendation of the council of deans.

DR. JAMES R. CLEMENS has been elected dean of the John A. Creighton Medical College, Omaha.

DR. A. I. RINGER, formerly assistant professor of physiological chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of clinical medicine (diseases of metabolism) at the Fordham University School of Medicine, New York.

DR. LEON F. SHACKELL, of Washington University, has been appointed an instructor in physiology at the University of Utah Medical School, Salt Lake City.

DONALD W. DAVIS, Ph.D., of De Pauw University, has been appointed professor of biology in the College of William and Mary, and is succeeded at De Pauw University by Hardin R. Glascock.

At the State University of Iowa, George Bain Jenkins has been appointed professor of anatomy, and Vive Hall Young, assistant professor of botany.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### THE SONG OF FOWLER'S TOAD (BUFO FOWLERI)

VARIOUS observers have described the voice of Fowler's toad. All descriptions indicate that only its characteristic, weird, droning scream has been heard.

Allen, speaking of the common toad in New Hampshire, believed that the toad's song changed from a prolonged trill to the weird note produced by Fowler's toad. He says:

After the breeding season the toad's song changes from a prolonged pipe to a shorter, lower-toned note that, at night, has a peculiar weirdness and almost reaches a wail.<sup>1</sup>

Until recently the writer was convinced that Fowler's toad possessed but one song, the unmistakable, weird, wailing scream which advertises its presence throughout its range. It is now known that some individuals produce a

<sup>1</sup> Allen, Grover M., "Notes on the Reptiles and Amphibians of Intervale, New Hampshire," *Proc. of the Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist.*, Vol. 29, No. 3, 1899, p. 71.