only reason for the reply recently given by the government in the House of Commons to a question regarding legislation for the creation of a Ministry of Public Health. He appealed, therefore, to all interests concerned to sink minor differences and to approach the problem of public health administration as a whole from the broad national standpoint and in a courageous spirit.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

A COMMITTEE consisting of Regent Schulz and Deans Thatcher and Vance has been appointed to plan the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the University of Minnesota. The inauguration of President Burton will be one of the chief features. In view of the war conditions the celebration is planned to be of state interest only.

THE Harvard summer engineering camp at Squam Lake, N. H., has been abandoned on account of the war and owing to the fact that the expenses of the camp can not be met unless more than the thirty students already registered attend.

At Louisiana State University, Assistant Professor S. T. Sanders has been made head of the department of mathematics, and Dr. I. C. Nichols has been appointed associate professor.

MR. ROY RICHARD DENSLOW, assistant tutor in the department of chemistry, College of the City of New York, has been appointed instructor in Smith College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

LUMINOSITY OF RECTIFIER ELECTRODE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In setting up as a demonstration experiment, the well-known arrangement for rectifying an alternating current, the essential part of which is an aluminum rod and lead plate in ten per cent. sodium phosphate solution, the following observation was made, which may be well known but which I wish to take this opportunity of mentioning, since I have not found it described anywhere in connection with the experiment.

When the aluminum rod is positive, that is to say, when the current is in such direction that it will not pass through the rectifier, a very distinct luminosity appears over the surface of the aluminum and if the applied potential is as high as 250 volts, this luminosity becomes quite brilliant enough to be observed by a spectroscope. This is not due to local heating since the aluminum is only gently warmed. The glow is orange yellow in color and, through a direct-vision spectroscope, shows a continuous spectrum through the red, yellow and green with a trace of blue. Phosphorescence is suggested, possibly similar to that shown by alum.

May I lay this before your readers in the hope that some one of them may be familiar with, and have an explanation for, this luminosity. Our time at present is so taken up with other matters that investigation of it can not be pushed as would otherwise be the case.

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AN UNUSUALLY BRILLIANT HALO

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The very complete halos visible at Boulder, Colo., on the morning of January 10, 1918, are perhaps worthy of a brief description

The phenomena were first observed when the sun was about 10° or 12° high. At this time all of the 22° halo that was above the horizon was very distinct. The white horizontal parhelic circle extending each way from the sun to a short distance outside the 22° halo was also plainly marked and the parhelia where it crossed the halo were very bright, though somewhat diffuse. In about half an hour the 22° halo became much brighter showing red on the inside and a faint blue on the outside. Above the sun, tangent to this halo and convex toward the sun, appeared the usual ox-yoke-shaped arc of a pale pink tinge. During this time also the 46° halo appeared and be-

came very bright and complete except for the portion below the horizon. It clearly showed red on the inside and blue on the outside. Tangent to this halo, directly above the sun and convex toward it, was a strongly colored arc of a circle, red on the convex and blue on the concave side.

As the sun's altitude increased the parhelic circle gradually extended until it reached nearly around the horizon and the paranthelia 120° from the sun had become very distinct patches of white light. The 22° parhelia meanwhile had become dazzlingly bright, considerably elongated perpendicularly, and showed orange red on the side farthest from the sun. This color arrangement being the reverse of that of the 22° halo seems peculiar.

The phenomena remained visible until about eleven o'clock before which time the 22° halo appeared as a complete circle above the horizon and the parhelion directly below the sun showed brightly. Before vanishing the bright 46° halo and its brilliantly colored tangent arc appeared almost at the zenith.

Measurements of the diameters of the halos and the angular positions of the parhelia were made with an improvised transit. No claim to accuracy can be made for them, both because of the apparatus and because of the bright and diffuse nature of the objects, but the results obtained are practically those given above as was to be expected.

The temperature during the night had been below zero and in the morning was still 3° or 4° below it. The air was quiet and filled with falling crystals of ice.

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

MARKING MICROSCOPE SLIDES

IN the issue of SCIENCE for January 4, Mr. P. A. West gives an aluminum clip method for labelling glass slides while staining which he finds more satisfactory than the diamond pencil or the water-proof-ink method.

With me his objection to a label scratched on the glass does not hold, as I use a jar in which the upper end of the slide is not covered by the stain. I have for several years used an improvised carborundum pencil and have found it most satisfactory.

A fair-sized crystal of carborundum, chosen for one or more sharp points is laid between the two halves of a firm piece of elder pith about an inch and a half long, with the sharp end projecting only sufficiently to make its use easy. Rubber bands are then wound tightly about both ends of the pith, holding the carborundum firmly in place. The pencil may be pointed up by trimming the edges of the pith around the crystal. This pencil is more easily handled than the bare crystal and scratches the data quickly and easily on the slides.

MARY K. BRYAN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Organization of Thought. By A. N. WHITEHEAD, Sc.D., F.R.S., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Professor of Applied Mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. London, Williams and Norgate. 1917. Pp. 219.

This volume is a collection of eight discourses bearing the following titles:

I. The Aims of Education—A Plea for Reform.
II. Technical Education and Its Relation to Science and Literature.
III. A Polytechnic in War-time.
IV. The Mathematical Curriculum.
V. The Principles of Mathematics in Relation to Elementary Teaching.
VI. The Organization of Thought.
VII. The Anatomy of Some Scientific Ideas.
VIII. Space, Time and Relativity.

Except number VII., which is here published for the first time, the articles are addresses delivered before various scientific associations in course of the last four years. The range of discussion is wide, even wider than the diversity of titles might lead one to expect; yet the discussions have a deep unity in the fact that they deal with various aspects of one great matter, the organization of thought, and so the book is happily named. Fresh, direct, trenchant, vital and swift, the style is such as to give the reader more energy