It is only by such means that biology is to maintain its place. The science has justified its existence, to be sure, in the unravelling of the complicated skein of genetics and sex. However, to eliminate criticism concerning the ability of zoologists to speak glibly of enzymes and catalyzers, or sex hormones and of chemical determiners, they should fortify themselves by a strong development of functional biology.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AURORA AND MAGNETIC STORM OF MARCH 7-8 IN ENGLAND

THE auroral display is said to have attracted much attention, partly because it coincided with an air-raid upon London. The northern sky was lighted up with a crimson glow both before and during the raid, which started shortly after 11 P.M.; and the appearance was thought by an observer at Folkstone to be due to a distant fire. Sir Napier Shaw informs *Nature* that the Meteorological Office has received reports of aurora observations from Lerwick, Stornoway, Eskdalemuir, Donaghadee, Liverpool, Clacton and Southend, and forwarded the following account, by Dr. C. Chree, of the large magnetic disturbance recorded at the Kew Observatory between 9 P.M. on Thursday and 5 A.M. on the following morning. Mr. A. Lander has sent *Nature* photographic traces of movements in declination recorded at Canterbury during Thursday and Friday. Thursday's trace was remarkably even until shortly after 9 P.M., when the magnetic storm began. *Nature* remarks that it is possible that the disturbance was a repetition, after three 27-day intervals, of the large magnetic storm of December 16–17, 1917. There was a very considerable disturbance on January 12 at the end of the first 27-day interval, and a minor disturbance at the end of the intermediate interval in February.

Dr. Chree wrote: "A magnetic storm of no great duration, but very considerable amplitude, was recorded at Kew Observatory on the night, March 7–8, 1918. It began with a 'sudden commencement' at about 9h. 10m. P.M. on March 7. The largest movements occurred in the early morning of March 8, between midnight and 5 A.M., but smaller oscillations persisted for some time after the latter hour. The 'sudden commencement' was especially prominent in horizontal force (H); after a small, sudden fall there was a sharp rise of fully 60γ. The corresponding movements in declination (D) consisted of an oscillation of about 4′, the first movement being to the west. The range shown on the D trace was about 51′, the extreme easterly and westerly positions being reached at 2.20 A.M and 4.16 A.M. respectively on March 8. Between 1.11 A.M. and 2.20 A.M. of the same day there was a movement of 36′ to the east. The range on the H trace was about 240γ. A very rapid downward movement commenced about 2.3 A.M. on March 8, the fall during the next thirty minutes amounting to fully 185γ. After 5 A.M. on the same day there were only short-period oscillations in H of moderate size; but up to 10 A.M. the element remained depressed by fully 70γ as compared with its value on the previous day before the storm."

THE STEAM ENGINEERING TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE STEVENS INSTITUTE

THE Navy Department has designated the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J., as the headquarters for the new United States Naval Steam Engineering School for the training of engineer officers for the U. S. Naval Auxiliary Reserve.

This school is the only one devoted to training engineer officers for *steam-engine service,* and is a branch of the large training school now located at Pelham Bay Park, New York. There is at Pelham, in addition to the school for general training of enlisted men, an Officers' Material School, Naval Auxiliary Reserve. Both the school at Pelham and the engineer officer school at Stevens are under the supervision of the Supervisor, Naval Auxiliary Reserve. The education of the engineer officers at Stevens is directed by Professor F. L. Pryor, of Stevens, who has been appointed