reforming the world's calendar, by Honorable J. M. C. Smith, of Michigan.

It is gratifying to learn that the movement for Calendar Reform is thus taking on definite shape; and also that, from the writer's viewpoint, the bill referred to embodies the feature of dividing the year into thirteen lunar months, thus assigning to the moon her rightful place in determining her share of time division in the calendar.

It would appear to be sufficiently obvious without special mention, that it must be futile for any individual government to undertake a reform of the world's calendar without the cooperation of the other principal civilized nations; and that any legislation that may now be projected along that line should be with the object of securing such cooperation.

It may be suggested also that the movement might better be deferred until the present world agitation shall have subsided.

T. G. DABNEY

CELLULOID FOR COVER GLASSES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: War conditions are causing many substitutes to be used, and even I was forced to one by the scarcity of cover glasses for microscopic work. I found that sheet celluloid can very well be used in place of the glass, the fiber thereof being practically negligible for beginning work. I take sheet celluloid, cut strips about the width of the slide, iron these strips flat (place the heated iron over each part but do not rub, for rubbing the iron causes other streaks), and then cut the strip into small squares. In addition to being unbreakable and so quite durable and inexpensive, they can not scratch the lens by the pupil running the objective into the coverslip, as beginners are prone to do with all cautions about such dangers forewarning them. Other science teachers may find this expedient worth trying. F. A. VARRELMAN

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AN ABSOLUTE SCALE FOR RECORDING TEMPERATURE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I think the suggestion of Dr. Marvin in a recent number of SCIENCE (15 March, 1918) with reference to the adoption of an approximation to the absolute scale of recording temperatures is a good one. Two suggestions occur to my mind in trying to devise an appropriate name for this scale. As it is a combination of the Absolute and the Centigrade the word "Abcent" composed of the first syllable of each word seems to give a fitting term. An alternative would be to call it the "Thomson" scale, a name which would signify that it closely resembles the Kelvin or absolute scale but is not quite the same. As is well known, Lord Kelvin's earlier name was Sir William Thomson. J. ADAMS

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Calculus. By HERMAN W. MARCH, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin, and HENRY C. WOLFF, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1917. Pp. xvi + 360.

Differential and Integral Calculus. By CLYDE E. LOVE, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1916. Pp. xviii + 343.

Plane Trigonometry with Tables. By EUGENE HENRY BARKER, Head of the Department of Mathematics, Polytechnic High School, Los Angeles, California. P. Blakiston's Son and Co., Philadelphia, 1917. Pp. 172.

College Algebra. By ERNEST BROWN SKINNER, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1917. Pp. vi + 263.

Projective Geometry. By L. WAYLAND DOWLING, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Wisconsin. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1917. Pp. xiii + 215.

Elliptic Integrals. By HARRIS HANCOCK, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Cincinnati. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1917. Pp. 104.

Of the making of many text-books of mathematics for colleges and secondary schools there