

strongly condemns the professor's wild statements. The committee from the National Academy of Sciences, sent down by President Wilson about the end of 1915, also believed such assertions were not warranted by facts. Now the zephyrs of time have completely cleared away the foundations of fog on which the professor's off-hand, sweeping, and calamitous prophecy was based. One might pardon a professor of poetry for indulging in such dire and generalized prophecy regarding the canal, but that a professor of science should ascend so far into the rarified realms of imagination is surely an anomaly.

DONALD F. MACDONALD,
*Formerly Geologist to the Isthmian
Canal Commission*

A COUNTRY WITHOUT A NAME

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A statement made by one of your correspondents in SCIENCE, June 21, "Canada, which is no part of America," is barely saved by the context, "Canada, which is no part of America, as we wish it to be known, the U. S. A."

Wishes will hardly avail to rule that Canada is no part of America. The united states south of the Rio Grande bear the name Mexico; similarly the united states (provinces) north of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes bear the name Canada. Mexico and Canada are both good names, because they are single words and readily afford corresponding adjectives. The geographically intermediate group of states suffers the misfortune of having no name, and a much needed adjective is consequently lacking. All three groups are, of course, "of America"—Mexico being, however, rather more American than the other two.

The awkwardness due to lack of a name has been especially exhibited during the past year or more in such glaring inaccuracies as "American troops," "American supplies," etc., when "United States" is meant. That particular federation of American states which begins with Maine and ends with Washington needs a name more than it needs a national flower.

ELLEN HAYES

WELLESLEY, MASS.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

An Introduction to the Chemistry of Plant Products. By PAUL HAAS, D.Sc., Ph.D., Lecturer on Chemistry, Royal Gardens, Kew, and in the Medical School of St. Mary's Hospital, London; and T. G. HILL, A.R.C.S., F.L.S., Reader in Vegetable Physiology in the University of London, University College. With diagrams. Second edition. London, New York, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, Longmans, Green and Company. 1917. \$3.50 net.

The subject of paramount importance in biology is the study of the cell and its constituents. A great deal is known concerning the physical properties and occurrence of nearly all those bodies that possess definite forms under normal conditions. Independent of the biologist a large number of constituents have been isolated and these have been studied as to their chemical properties and in some instances their constitution has been ascertained. The work of the biologist and phytochemist has been usually conducted more or less independently. Up until now this was inevitable on account of the special training required in both these sciences. The time has come, however, when the results of the biologist should be understood by the chemist and the discoveries of the latter interpreted and applied to the study of the constituents of the cell. This work of Haas and Hill aims to supply this deficiency and is likely to be an incentive to the publication of other books covering these subjects.

This work deals essentially with the important plant constituents and includes: (1) Fats, oils and waxes; phosphatides; (2) carbohydrates; (3) glucosides; (4) tannins; (5) pigments; (6) nitrogenous bases; (7) colloids; (8) proteins; (9) enzymes. These various substances are considered as to their occurrence in nature, their physical and chemical properties, microchemical reactions, method of extraction, quantitative estimation and physiological significance. The chemical methods of isolation of the plant products and their chemical reaction are very fully considered and for this rea-