The greatest service of this method appears when the two sets of allelomorphs are combined. The student has learned to multiply $a^2 + 2ab + b^2$ by the expression $x^2 + 2xy + y^2$. He will perform the operation as one familiar to him and he can readily be taught to recognize the four pure strains a^2x^2, a^2y^2, b^2x^2, b^2y^2. Suppose a and y represent the dominant characters and b and x represent the recessives, emphasizing the fact that the dominant is effective whether appearing as the first or as the second power. Suppose a represent tallness and y represent red flower in a plant. Gathering the results of the multiplication according to visible attributes we have four columns representing the Mendelian ratio 9:3:3:1.

Tall Red	Tall White	Dwarf Red	Dwarf White
$2a^2xy$ $4abxy$ $2aby^2$ a^2y^2	a^2x^2 $2abx^2$	b^2y^2 $2bxy$	b^2x^2
9	3	3	1

This is only one of many devices all alike fundamentally but it has the great value of utilizing a familiar process. Many times I have seen it clear up a badly fogged situation. It is worth trying on the discouraged pupil at any rate.

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SILEXITE: A NEW ROCK NAME

IN the granites of the Adirondack region the writer has observed many bodies of pure or nearly pure silica of igneous origin in the form of dikes segregation masses practically *in situ*, or inclusions. Among many other districts where similar masses of silica occur is the Silver Peak quadrangle of Nevada in an account of which Spurr has described many considerable bodies of quartz of magmatic origin. Numerous fine examples of so-called "quartz dikes" occur in the Holyoke quadrangle of western Massachusetts described by Emerson. The need for a definite name to apply to any such body of silica has impressed itself upon the writer during the preparation of a discussion of the acidic dikes of northern New York. Such terms as "quartz dikes" or "dike quartz" are not comprehensive enough, first, because much of the silica under consideration is not in dike form, and, second, because the silica may be either quartz or tridymite depending upon the temperature of crystallization.

The term "selexite" is proposed for any body of pure or nearly pure silica of igneous or aqueo-igneous origin which occurs as a dike, segregation mass, or inclusion within or without its parent rock. This term is based upon the name "silex" used by Pliny in his "Natural History" for the mineral now known as quartz. "Silexite," therefore, not only has the advantage of simplicity as a name, but also it directly suggests the composition of the rock which it names.

WILLIAM J. MILLER

SMITH COLLEGE

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE Bay Section of the society held a two-day meeting at Stanford University, November 29–30, 1918. The sessions, held in Jordan Hall, were well attended and the various papers which were of more than usual interest were enthusiastically received. Dr. Joseph Grinnell served as chairman. An informal dinner Friday evening and a field trip on Saturday afternoon were features of the occasion. Dr. S. D. Townley gave the evening lecture on "The recent solar eclipse."

The following papers were presented:

Isolation as a factor in species forming: DAVID STARR JORDAN, Stanford University.

A Thanksgiving Day registration of plants in bloom on Mt. Tamalpais: ALICE EASTWOOD, California Academy of Sciences.

Use of selective dyes in sanitary examination of water: IVAN C. HALL, University of California.

The naturalist's place in his community: E. W. ALLEN, Fresno High School.

Adaptation of the eyes of birds for rapid flight: J. R. SLONAKER, Stanford University.

Intrauterine absorption of conceptsuses: A. W. MEYER, Stanford University.

The relations between the salinity of water and the osmotic pressure of nereocystis: Annie May Hurd, University of California.

Gistel's natural history: David Starr Jordan.

The English sparrow has arrived in Death Valley: J. Grinnell, University of California.

The Steinhart Aquarium of the California Academy of Sciences: B. W. Evermann, California Academy of Sciences

Some phases of plant succession due to grazing: C. H. Shattuck, University of California.

Larval stages of the Japanese blood-fluke, Shistosoma japonicum: W. W. Cort, University of California.

Genetic investigations of the Compositæ: E. B. Babcock, University of California.

New habitat groups in the museum of the California Academy of Sciences: B. W. Evermann.

Demonstration of a plankton net: W. E. Allen.

The discovery of some new white fishes in Bear Lake, Idaho: J. O. Snyder, Stanford University.

The work of the Committee on Zoological Investigation of the Council of Defense of California: B. W. Evermann.

The Escalonias in Golden Gate Park: Alice Eastwood.

The five-toed kangaroo rats of west-central California: J. Grinnell.

Orthogenesis: David Starr Jordan.

Mussels of the Pacific Coast: E. P. Rankin, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

The ovulation and Estrus cycle in the rat: J. A. Long, University of California.

Bacteriology of peanut butter: Ivan C. Hall.

The inspection of foods in mills and warehouses: R. W. Doane, Stanford University, California.

Structure of embryonic heart muscle: E. D. Congdon, Stanford University.

What kinds of botany does the world need now: G. J. Peirce.

Papers were read for C. V. Taylor, Forrest Shreve and D. T. MacDougal, the authors not being present.

THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The tenth meeting (seventh annual meeting) of the Tennessee Academy of Science was held on November 29, 1918, at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., President John T. McGill presiding. The program was as follows:

Memorial Sketch of Dr. A. H. Purdue, by Dr. L. C. Glenn.

Annual address of the president, "Tobacco smoke; its composition and toxicity," by Dr. John T. McGill.

A vocational survey of the chemical industries of Nashville, by Professor H. A. Webb.

The effect of the Old Hickory Works upon Cumberland River water, by Dr. W. H. Hollinshead.

Reelfoot Lake water, by Dr. J. I. D. Hinds.

On the temperature of reduction with hydrogen, by Dr. J. H. Ransom and Dr. J. L. St. John.

The sulphur industry in the United States, by Miss Gretchen H. Lee.

The differential action of lime and magnesia upon the conservation of soil sulphur, by Professor W. H. McIntire.

Carbocoal, a new smokeless fuel from high volatile coals, by Dr. C. H. Gordon.

Geology as applied to warfare, by Wilbur A. Nelson.

The contributions of biology to winning the war, by Dr. E. E. Reincke.

Forestry and the war, by R. S. Maddox.

Uses of meteorology in the war, by Roscoe Nunn.

The geographic basis of the European war, by Professor A. E. Parkins.

The migration of the birds of the Mississippi Valley, with special reference to Reelfoot Lake, by W. D. Howser.

The future of the airplane, by Latimer J. Wilson.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President, Dr. L. C. Glenn, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Vice-president, Professor Scott C. Lyon, Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tenn.

Editor, Dr. C. H. Gordon, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

Secretary-Treasurer, Roscoe Nunn, U. S. Weather Bureau, Nashville, Tenn.

Roscoe Nunn,
Secretary

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