The Division of Industrial Research of the National Research Council is arranging for the formation of a cooperative association to plan and support fundamental researches in alloys. Although much valuable work has been done in this field by scattered investigators there is no doubt that a well-planned and coordinated effort by a cooperative association working under the general guidance of the National Research Council and composed of specialists representing both the manufacturers and the more extensive users of alloys can produce additional results of great importance. The success of other industries which have supported research on a cooperative plan, such as has been done by the National Canners' Association and the Malleable Iron Manufacturers, is evidence of this. It is planned to create a special scientific staff composed of a director and assistant director of research and a group of scientific investigators and technical experts who shall give their whole time to the work. To finance the organization each member of the cooperative association will pay $1,000 a year, and all contributing members, who may be either alloy manufacturing or using individuals, firms or companies are to benefit alike by the results of the researches.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

McCoy Hall and others of the old buildings of the Johns Hopkins University were destroyed by fire on the night of November 27. The loss is covered by insurance, but valuable libraries and records of the school of hygiene and public health, which occupied the second floor of McCoy Hall, were destroyed with irreparable loss.

The main buildings of the University of Montreal, known as Laval University, containing the medical department, were destroyed by fire on November 22. The loss is estimated at $400,000, which is covered by insurance.

By an intensive campaign lasting less than a week the University of Rochester has raised $800,000 in the city of Rochester alone toward an endowment fund of one million dollars, the interest from which is to be used to increase professors' salaries. Mr. George Eastman, head of the Eastman Kodak Company, subscribed $100,000, the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company gave $75,000 and many other houses sums of lesser amount.

Dr. E. H. Kennard has been appointed assistant professor of physics at Cornell University.

Captain Esbon Y. Titus, formerly chief chemist for Nitrate Plant No. 1, Sheffield, Ala., has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin.

Francis Marsh Baldwin, Ph.D. (Illinois), assistant professor of zoology at Iowa State College for the past two years, has been raised to the rank of associate professor and has charge of the work in human physiology. Ralph L. Parker, M.S. (Brown), who served overseas for eleven months, is associated with Dr. Baldwin as an instructor.

Stuart Hobbs Sims, associate professor in the department of mechanics and hydraulics at the University of Iowa, will succeed C. B. McCullough as head of the department of civil engineering at the Oregon Agricultural College. Mr. McCullough has been appointed state highway bridge engineer for Oregon.

The Yale School of Forestry has received from Mrs. Claire K. Williams, of Lakeville, Conn., her interest in a pension fund of ten thousand dollars. This fund is given as a memorial to her son, Herbert C. Williams, who graduated at the School of Forestry as a loan for needy students.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN APPEAL

During the night of November 27 fire completely destroyed McCoy Hall, formerly the administration building of the Johns Hopkins University, and immediately occupied by the Federated Charity Organization of the City of Baltimore, and certain departments of the

school of hygiene and public health of Johns Hopkins University. About three weeks ago the writer moved his department, that of biometry and vital statistics in the school of hygiene, into McCoy Hall, occupying the whole of the second floor of that building. On Thanksgiving Eve the writer had completed the removal to this building of all his private scientific library comprising roughly some fifteen thousand reprints and pamphlets. In the fields of biometry and genetics this library was in some respects unique owing to the fact that the writer began his activities in the field of biometry nearly twenty years ago when that branch of biological science was just getting under way, and consequently there was a completeness to the collection in that field which makes its total loss a catastrophe of overwhelming significance to the writer's scientific work.

In addition all the accumulated unpublished records of the writer's work for the past twenty years were completely destroyed. This included the records of his work in the genetics of poultry for ten years at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

This second loss is, of course, wholly irremediable. The purpose of this note is to appeal to workers in the fields of genetics, biometry and vital statistics, to help in remedying the first loss in so far as it can be remedied by sending to the writer duplicates of such of their reprints as they may have available and which they were kind enough to send him before. Any help in this direction will be deeply appreciated.

RAYMOND PEARL
SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH,
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

SOMATIC VARIATION

THE undersigned are making a study of somatic variation, using for this purpose the duplicated portions of double monsters. We are especially interested at the present time in securing photographs or accurate sketches showing the color markings on double-headed calves or other double monsters in mammals characterized by color patterns. Any information as to the existence of such specimens from which records of this nature might be obtained would be greatly appreciated.

LEON J. COLE,
JESSIE MEGEATH
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

STEINDACHNERIDION

IN 1888[1] we created the genus *Steindachneria* for three species of large catfishes from eastern Brazil; *St. amblyura* E. and E., from the Rio Jequitinhonha, *St. doceana* E. and E., from the Rio Doce and *St. parahybæ* Steindachner, from the Rio Parahyba. Our attention was at once called to the fact that Goode, in Agassiz' "Three Cruises of the Blake," had mentioned with a brief description and no type, if we recall correctly, a Macrurid under the name *Steindachneria*. With the rules governing nomenclature in those benighted times Goode's name had no standing and we wrote Goode calling his attention to the fact. Goode replied October 1, 1888: "*Steindachneria* has never been published, though the diagnosis of the genus has been lying in manuscript for nearly two years. So we will change the name. It is not of the least consequence."

When Goode and Bean's "Oceanic Ichthyology" was issued it appeared that Goode's intentions in regard to the Macrurid *Steindachneria* had not been carried out. There upon[2] we proposed the name *Steindachnerella* for the Macrurid.

Times and rules have changed. Dr. David Starr Jordan recently wrote us the catfish must have a new name. We sent him the letter of G. Brown Goode whereupon Jordan replies, "Goode's letter is very nice and characteristic. But under our present rules a *nomen seminudus* holds. . . . I recommend that you give a new name to the South American genus."

Reluctantly and with effort we submit to changing opinion, realizing that it is a long time since we began to give names to the fresh water fishes of South America. There-

[1] *Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.* (2), I., 137.
[2] *Am. Naturalist*, 1897, p. 159.