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In addition all the accumulated unpublished records of the writer's work for the past twenty years were completely destroyed.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.

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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.

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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.