fore, under the name *Steindachneridion* we rebaptize those catfish which, for thirty-one years have been nozing around on the river bottoms just north of Rio Janeiro under the improper appelation *Steindachneria.*

Carl H. Eigenmann,
Rosa Smith Eigenmann

ACOUSTIC EFFECTS OF WIRES

The thorough researches of Wallace C. Sabine, of Harvard University, showed that the acoustic qualities of a room depend largely on its reverberation times for various pitches, that is, the intervals during which the repeated echos of sounds remain audible. Good corrections can usually be made by altering the sound-absorbing qualities of walls and other surfaces against which the sound waves impinge and by which they are wholly or partially reflected.

Many attempts have been made, some within very recent times, to correct faulty rooms by stretching wires across them. There seems to be no reason for supposing, a priori, that a correction can be obtained in this way. To my knowledge no quantitative experiments to settle the question have been recorded. Many architects who have not given careful attention to the work of Sabine are inclined to believe that this method, because it has been used in so many instances, must give some degree of correction.

In the course of some experiments which I made a few months ago on the faulty acoustics of the chamber of the House of Representatives in the new parliament buildings in Wellington, New Zealand, I was requested to make an experiment on the effect of wires. The committee in charge of the work knew that a chamber in the Australian parliament buildings had been fitted with wires and that they were said to function well.

No. 16 copper wires were stretched both lengthwise and crosswise six inches apart in a horizontal plane over the entire middle part of the room bounded by the galleries. This space constitutes two thirds of the cross-section of the room. 9,000 feet of wire were used, possibly twenty times as much as would ordinarily be used in a room of this size. The reverberation times for a great variety of pitches were carefully measured both with and without wires, and were found to be the same in both cases to within about two per centum, which is not greater than the expected error of measurement.

In this particular case, therefore, the wires were without effect. I have not been able to discover any uniformity in the arrangements of wires where they have been used, and so the one described above may be considered as good as any. The probability is great that wires, however arranged, have no effect on acoustics.

Harry Clark
Oberlin College

QUOTATIONS

THE HARVEIAN FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

The Harveian Festival was, for the first time since 1913, celebrated with full honors by the Royal College of Physicians of London on St. Luke's Day (October 18). The Harveian Oration has been delivered each year, but the other ceremonies have been intermitted. On this occasion the oration, delivered by Dr. Raymond Crawfurd, dealt with the forerunners of Harvey in antiquity. As will be seen when the full text is published in an early issue, the speaker supported the thesis that in the matter of the circulation of the blood Harvey's indebtedness to any but Aristotle was negligible. The fuller knowledge now possessed of the writings of men of science of ancient days demanded, he said a readjustment of traditional beliefs, for too much had been claimed for the ardent anatomists of the Renaissance and too little conceded to the master minds of antiquity. The oration was delivered in the library, and the speaker's development of his theme was closely followed by a large and attentive audience. Afterwards the President presented the Baly Medal to Dr. Leonard Hill, and in doing so recalled the circumstances of its foundation. William Baly was assistant physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a Fellow of the