

I perceive from your letter that my friend Dollo, whom I had informed of the critical conditions here with us, turned for aid to my friend Osborn. In fact, the past winter in Vienna was literally frightful. Your people have done a great deal for our children and in this way have aided materially in reducing the number of cases of sickness due to privation and hunger. The circumstance that Austria is reduced by the peace treaty to a relatively small country, and especially that it is limited to the mountain territories, which could not previously raise their own food supplies, and under the present bad conditions are still less able to provide for themselves, has shaped the situation since the end of the war for a catastrophe, as we are surrounded all about by new states which in part are unwilling to help us, as with Czechoslovakia and Hungary and Jugoslavia, and in part are unable to help because they themselves are in want, as with Germany. . . . Up to the present time destitution has attained terrible dimensions with us, and people have been dying like flies. The middle classes especially have been most heavily affected by these conditions as they were in no position to pass over to other classes the enormous increase in prices occasioned by the destitution, as the business and labor classes were enabled to do. We can only hope that as soon as political conditions will permit, Austria, now so much reduced in size and productivity in consequence of its geographical limitations that it will scarcely in the future be self-supporting, may be able to shape up some possibility for a continued existence. . . . (April 4, 1920.)

Despite these circumstances the writer of the above letter has succeeded in publishing a monumental work, printed on paper of the poorest quality, which must be used by all American students.

I have taken the liberty of quoting from these personal letters from two men in the very front rank in Europe, in order to present the actual situation to some of my colleagues who are still in doubt as to what their attitude should be. We geologists can not cut off communication with a country which has produced Edouard Suess. We paleontologists welcome the works of Othenio Abel.

As regards others, with whom personal relations are less close, I have decided neither to forgive nor to forget nor to extenuate, but to

carry on. In brief, I find that it is my duty to renew scientific relations with all the specialists of Europe who are engaged in my lines of work, regardless of past or present geographic boundaries. Needless to say, I am now renewing personal relations with my former friends and colleagues, whatever their nationality.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

AMERICAN MUSEUM,  
NEW YORK,  
May 12, 1920

#### THE METEOR OF NOVEMBER 26, 1919

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: From the Climatological Data, Michigan Section for November, 1919, issued from the Grand Rapids, Michigan Weather Bureau Office under the heading of "Remarks of Observers" on page 132, the following has been taken:

Newberry—A large and brilliant meteor was observed at about 8 P.M. of the 26th; it looked to be about 38 inches in diameter. It was first seen in the southwest—rather low but considerably above the horizon—with its course southeastward and downward. At a point about 9° west of south, and near the horizon, it appeared to be bursting like a rocket as it sank from view.

This probably is an observation of the same meteor which was noticed in southern Michigan and supposed to have fallen into Lake Michigan near its southern end. This observation is 300 miles or more north of the previously supposed position of the meteor's descent.

WILLIAM KELLY

VULCAN, MICH.

#### FORMULÆ FOR DATES

IN my formulæ for finding the day of the week of any date (SCIENCE, May 21, 1920, p. 513) the explanation of the method of finding the value of the symbol  $L$  is not sufficiently clear for dates in centennial years. The following modification is therefore offered:  $L$  is the number of leapdays (not counting the one in a centennial year, if any) preceding the date and subsequent to the beginning of the centennial year having the