

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

same first two digits as the year of the date in question.

Further study also reveals the fact that the formula for Old Style dates requires modification for dates in January and February of centennial years. This modification may best be made by starring the figure 5 of the formula and inserting the following footnote: *Use 4 instead of 5 for dates in January and February in centennial years.

W. J. SPILLMAN

THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE PROFESSOR ZUNTZ

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: A letter received from a friend in Berlin a few days ago brings information of the death of Professor N. Zuntz. The very great services of Professor Zuntz, extending over a long life time, devoted to the advancement of physiology and nutrition, his broad-mindedness and kindly character render his death at this time, when renewal of scientific associations severed by the war is so important, peculiarly sad.

The information comes also that, for the support of his widow who is a hopeless invalid, funds are needed. To this end it is desired to sell the large library which Professor Zuntz had collected. It includes complete sets of practically all of the journals in his field of work. By disposing of the library direct to some purchaser, or purchasers, in this country the advantage of the rate of exchange would accrue to the widow instead of to some book dealer.

I shall be glad to supply the address and such further information as I have to any one interested in the purchase of this library.

YANDELL HENDERSON

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY,
YALE UNIVERSITY

QUOTATIONS

WORK OF THE MAYO BROTHERS

A FRIEND of Christian civilization and a supporter of the present social order rejoices to visit such a shrine of philanthropy as can be found at Rochester, Minnesota. To that obscure and remote town came from England

a good many years ago a physician and surgeon named Dr. W. W. Mayo. He had been brought up in an atmosphere of scientific progress and had studied with the English physicist, Dalton. He settled down to a general practise in Rochester and attained eminence in his profession. He had two sons, William and Charles, who followed his profession and developed the highest known skill in surgery, acquiring a reputation that brought people from the country around to seek relief at their hands. They soon discovered that their income was quite beyond their own need, and they conceived in their breadth of vision the opportunity of philanthropic progressive work for relief of their stricken fellowmen. They turned half of their income over to a business friend, with the request that he invest it and increase it; and thus in the days of rapid increase in values this fund became \$2,000,000. Meantime their reputation grew, the demand for their service and for the enlargement and development of their plant greatly widened. They adopted the principle that no one needing surgical aid and coming to Rochester should be turned away without receiving it; that the rich and the moderately circumstanced should be made to pay in proportion to their means, and that the man without anything should receive aid for nothing. The amount received from the wealthy they apportioned with a view of creating a foundation for their clinic, which should continually enlarge its usefulness. Rochester is now a town of 14,000. It now has constantly 4,000 to 6,000 transient residents who are there for treatment. There are 900 beds all told in the various hospitals, and something more than 300 are being added. Sixty-thousand cases of all kinds are received and treated a year. The iron rule is that the poorest shall receive as careful and as good treatment as the wealthiest. The result has been that the name of the Mayos and Rochester has spread to the uttermost quarters of the world, and to-day a most cosmopolitan group greets the visitor in all the buildings in which this great philanthropy is carried on. As one notes the