

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.

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#### 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

crowds of people that gather from 7 in the morning until late in the evening every day to await their turn for examination, diagnosis and treatment, he thinks that he has come to the shrine of a saint.—William Howard Taft in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*.

### THE JOURNAL OF MAMMALOGY

ON April 3, 1919, the American Society of Mammalogists was founded at Washington, D. C. One of the principal objects of this society was the publication of a journal of mammalogy and on November 28 the first number of this journal appeared, from the press of Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore.

The arrival of the journal must have been a matter of gratification to the many students, scientific workers and others who are interested in the subject of mammalian life, for the need of such a publication has long been felt. In its aims this journal is broad, including within its scope morphology, evolution, paleontology, taxonomy, life histories and habits, in fact "every phase of technical and popular mammalogy." It is the announced purpose to make the journal indispensable to all active workers in mammalogy and of value "to every person interested in mammals, be he systematist, paleontologist, anatomist, museum or zoological garden man, big game hunter, or just plain naturalist."

In its make-up the journal seems in the opinion of the reviewer to be both substantial and attractive. The type is well chosen, the paper of good quality and the photographic reproductions contained give evidence that the illustrative features will be well handled. The front of its gray-green cover presents as decoration a pen drawing by Ernest Thompson Seton of the prong-horn antelope—symbol of something distinctively American. Below this is the table of contents and a glance at the list of contributors reveals the names of many well-known authorities in the field of mammalogy.

The first number consists of 51 pages, of which about 37 are devoted to major articles,

5 to general notes and about the same number to recent literature and 2 pages to editorial comment. On the closing pages are found the by-laws and rules of the society adopted at the time of its founding. The second number, which appeared promptly, includes pages 53 to 110.

An idea of the contents of the journal may best be conveyed by mention of a few representative titles. Among the major articles, of technical character are "Criteria for the recognition of species and genera," "Preliminary notes on African Carnivora," "Notes on the fox squirrels of the southeastern United States," "Names of some South American mammals," "A new fossil rodent from the Oligocene of South Dakota," "Identity of the bean mouse of Lewis and Clark." Among articles dealing with distribution, habits and other phases of life-history may be mentioned "Bats from Mt. Whitney, California," "The mammals of Southeastern Washington," "Migrations of the gray-squirrel," "An apparent effect of winter inactivity upon the distribution of mammals," "For a methodic study of life-histories."

Under General Notes, a department of the journal which promises to be one of unusual interest, are found among others, "An easy method of cleaning skulls," "Red bat and spotted porpoise off the Carolinas," "The Florida spotted skunk as an acrobat," "Rodent mountaineers," "Does the cuterebra ever emasculate its host?" "The coyote not afraid of water," "The flying squirrel as a bird killer," "Technical names of two *Colobus* monkeys."

In addition to reviews of recent literature each number contains a long list of titles of recent mammalogical publications, domestic and foreign, while in the correspondence and editorial departments appear some very readable letters and comments on topics of current interest to mammalogists.

In a magazine of the scope of the *Journal of Mammalogy* it seems inevitable that articles of certain types will at times predominate over other kinds and it is perhaps too much to expect that every number shall