which on the coin is circumscribed by the name ΜΕΓΑΡΕΩΝ, *i.e.*, of the Megarians, has been published in the United States as representing Euclid the mathematician. This unintentional historical misrepresentation appears in the publication, "A Portfolio of Portraits of Eminent Mathematicians" (1896), issued by the Open Court Publishing Company, in Chicago, a firm which in general has done as much as any other in America to advance a sound knowledge of the history of mathematics. The picture of Euclid of Megara is given as that of the mathematician, Euclid. In the memorandum accompanying the picture occurs the statement, "the name Megara is frequently coupled with his [name] on the early portraits as in this case."

The statement just quoted, in so far as it relates to the coin portrait in question, is in conflict with numismatic authority. A specimen of the coin referred to is in the British Museum and has been described by the great authority on coins, Barclay V. Head, who speaks of this coin as follows:[2]

> ΜΕΓΑΡΕΩΝ. Bearded head of the philosopher Eucleides of Megara, veiled and wearing ear-ring. . . . This remarkable type refers to the story that Eucleides attended the lectures of Socrates in the disguise of a woman, the Athenians having passed a decree that no citizens of Megara should be admitted within their walls. (Aulus Gellius, *Noct. Att.*, VI., 10.)

In his catalogue of Greek coins Head[3] quotes the Latin passage from Aulus Gellius, the Roman writer of the second century A.D., referred to above, who had studied at Athens. The passage tells the story of Euclid's going to Athens disguised in a "tunica longa muliebri" to attend the lectures of Socrates and of his returning to Megara the next day in the same disguise. In this book Head gives the date of the coin as "Cir. 146 B.C. or later"; in his *Historia,* quoted above, he gives, "Imperial Times?". While Head thus expresses uncertainty as to the exact age of the coin, he entertains no doubt as to the head-dress representing woman's apparel that was worn by Euclid of Megara when on his way to and from the lectures of Socrates.

It is therefore established with as great certainty that this coin does not give the bust of the mathematician Euclid as it is established that this mathematician was not Euclid of Megara.

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RAINBOW BY MOONLIGHT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In connection with the case of the rainbow at night reported by Frank L. Griffin in SCIENCE of March 11, the following case may be of interest: At Burge, Nebraska, a rural post office about eighteen miles southwest of Valentine, on September 4, 1917, at about 9 P.M. a rainbow appeared. The moon had risen about an hour previously and a thunderstorm was coming up in the west, the rest of the sky being clear. A rainbow began to form and it continued to become brighter until a complete arch was formed. It was very distinct, but was nearly white and showed the prismatic colors very faintly if at all.

C. J. ELMORE

QUOTATIONS

BRITISH DYESTUFFS CORPORATION

THE situation in which the directorate of the British Dyestuffs Corporation finds itself is a remarkable one. At the registration of this company in May, 1919, as a result of amalgamating British Dyes, Ltd., of Huddersfield, with Messrs. Levinstein, Ltd., of Blackley, the appointment of Sir Joseph Turner as

"Corolla Numismatica . . . in Honour of Barclay V. Head," Oxford University Press, 1906, pp. 368–386.

[2] "Historia Numorum, a Manual of Greek Numismatics," by Barclay V. Head, Oxford, 1911, p. 394.

[3] "Catalogue of Greek Coins, Attica—Megaris—Aegina," by Barclay V. Head, D.C.L., Ph.D. Edited by Reginald Stuart Poole, LL.D., London, 1888, p. 121. See a drawing of the coin in Attica, etc., Plate XXI., 14.