ing, to succeed Professor Alexander J. Wurtz, who has been made research professor in the new research division of the institute.

DR. J. A. GUNTON has been appointed head of the chemistry department in Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky. Dr. Gunton recently received his doctorate of philosophy from the University of Illinois.

DR. CLIFFORD S. LEONARD, for the past year fellow in chemistry to Sweden on the American-Scandinavian Foundation, has completed his research at the Karoline and Nobel Institutes of Stockholm and has been appointed research instructor of pharmacology at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. R. H. ADERS PLIMMER has been appointed by the Senate of London University to the university chair of chemistry, tenable at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, beginning with the new year. At present he is head of the biochemical department of the Rowett Research Institute at the University of Aberdeen.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SEARCH FOR THE RECORD OF ROBERT HANHAM COLLYER, M. D.

DR. COLLYER was registered as practicing medicine in London as late as the year 1878. After this it is believed he returned to America. Long previous to this, namely, in 1867, he had announced in the *Anthropological Review* a very important discovery,—a prehistoric jaw-bone of great geologic age. Of this Mr. J. Reid Moir of Ipswich, England, writes:

I am of the opinion that if the Foxhall jaw-bone could be reexamined now, it would be possible to say with considerable certainty as to whether it was derived from the Crag, or not. But, unfortunately, the specimen cannot now be found, and advertisements placed by me in various newspapers and other journals have failed to bring it to light. Owing to the kindness of the acting registrar to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, I have been informed that Dr. Robert Hanham Collyer was registered in England on the 23rd of June, 1868, with the qualification M.D., Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, 1839. His application for registration is dated the 23rd of October, 1867, when he gave his address as 40, Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood. At the time of his registration he was at 1, Norman Terrace, Stockwell, which he subsequently changed to 199, Brompton Road, S. W., which was his registered address in 1878, in which year his name lapsed from the Medical Register in consequence of this address having been found to be inaccurate by means of an inquiry under Section 14 of the Medical Act. According to the American Medical Directory, the college from which, apparently, he obtained his degree is described as the Berkshire Medical College, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, an institution which is classed with those which are extinct—or merged with other colleges. There is reason to believe that Collyer returned eventually to America, taking the Foxhall jaw-bone with him. It would seem unlikely—in view of the importance he attached to the specimen—that no instructions would be left by him for the preservation of the specimen after his death, and I hope that the publicity now given to this matter may result in the Foxhall jaw-bone being once more brought to light.

There are several clues to aid our search. First the records and graduates of the Pittsfield Medical College. Some member of Dr. Collyer's class may have left descendants. Or, some member of his family may recall him. Or, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences may find letters from Dr. Collyer to Dr. Samuel G. Morton, the distinguished anthropologist of that institution.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN
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NEW YORK CITY

THE PROTECTION OF MICROSCOPIC SECTIONS

REFERRING to Professor Long's suggested method for protecting microscopic sections from mechanical injury in SCIENCE of October 7th., may I suggest the following, which will remedy the difficulty without resorting to the use of a thin film of parlodion.

Instead of using the *natural* Canada balsam for mounting (which does remain fluid for years), use balsam prepared by heating the

natural product on a water bath until it is hard, but not brittle, when cool. Then dissolve in a menstruum such as chloroform or xylol. After balsam is applied to the slide allow to stand over-night and then finish by placing cover glass over the sections, using gentle heat to render the balsam fluid. This mounting medium will then be found to be hard enough to withstand any pressure applied on the cover glass by careless students.

It is advisable to prepare this balsam oneself, unless it can be procured from a reliable firm which uses the above method of preparation.

GEORGE H. NEEDHAM
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,
SEATTLE, WASH.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

RELATIVE to your recent articles on the history of science and its present position in American colleges, you might be interested to know that efforts are being made to adapt the history of science as a cultural course for engineering students. I taught such a course in the college of engineering of the University of Colorado, and now am teaching it in the college of engineering of New York University.

PHILIP B. MCDONALD
DECEMBER 27, 1921.

AMEBOID BODIES ASSOCIATED WITH HIPPEASTRUM MOSAIC

IN a recent publication [1] the writer described and pictured certain bodies in the cells of corn plants suffering from mosaic disease. Since the bodies are confined to diseased portions of the plant, it was suggested that they might be of etiological significance.

Those who are working on the mosaic disease problem will be interested to know that similar bodies have now been found in the light green portions of mosaic leaves of *Hippeástrum equéstre* Herb. This plant belongs in the Amaryllidaceae and is not closely related to corn. Its leaves which are thick and soft are well suited for cytological studies. The mosaic pattern shown by *Hippeástrum* is quite different from that of corn. The intracellular bodies associated with this disease will be described in detail in a future paper.

L. O. KUNKEL
EXPERIMENT STATION OF THE HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION,
HONOLULU, T. H.

[1] Bul. Exp. Sta. H. S. P. A. 3:44-58 (1921)

THE TUNING FORK

IN SCIENCE for November 11, I cited briefly some inadequate references to the actions of a tuning fork to justify the preservation of matter that was very old; there was no reason to name the writers for these references were minor parts of their papers. But in SCIENCE for December 16, one of the writers, Mr. Young, comes to the front, as if I had made a personal attack on him, and defends his former expressions, but qualifies them, still leaving the subject in a very confused state. He quotes his former dynamically unsound "statement that the fork has only a single note at the base" and now adds the indefinite remark, "This of course is only an approximation"; it is noteworthy that he does not attempt to state what he thinks is the truth.

In his final paragraph he attributes to Professor Watson an "alternative explanation" which is only a corollary of Chladnis' old accepted theory; but probably the professor of physics would not use over his own signature such an inexact expression as the "center of mass tends to rise" or "lower," or leave it doubtful whether "center of mass" always relates to the same point.

CHARLES K. WEAD

QUOTATIONS

"KEY" CHEMICALS

LORD CREWE and Lord Haldane argued last week for the release of scientific apparatus and chemicals from the restrictions imposed by the safeguarding of industries act and the reparation act. Scientific research and the teaching of scientific students, they alleged, were seriously impeded because of the delay and difficulty in importing certain chemicals and apparatus from Germany. The stronger