of no scientific body and absolutely unknown in scientific circles, has in at least one of his contributions to the religious press (the one in which he tried to make much of the so-called anti-evolution admissions of Bateson) had the effrontery to style himself "geologist," in the expression he there used "we geologists"; and this is the man who in his support of a literal Genesis is hailed by the "Fundamentalists" as their great champion—one who has "demonstrated the absurdity of the evolutionist's geological theories" and has brought into prominence the "heretofore mute evidence of a mighty upheaval and a flood."

ARTHUR M. MILLER
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

KEYS IN SYSTEMATIC WORK

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It seems more mechanical uniformity is possible in the keys which systematists find of so much value in descriptive work. The number of forms used now is limited apparently only by the number of authors publishing such keys, and among this large number of forms are many which are wasteful of space and many which are confusing to the student.

Some of the mechanical requirements of a good key may be briefly summarized:

1. The key should occupy a minimum amount of space, and should present the minimum difficulty to the printer.

2. The key should be capable of indefinite expansion, that is, provide for any number of groups, and no headings of groups or sections should be duplicated.

3. Any desired space under each heading should be available.

4. Coordinate groups in the key should be recognizable as such at a glance and such coordinate groups should be in juxtaposition.

5. The key should be as readily "run backward" as "run forward."

Ample reasons for all these requirements could be given but need not be detailed here. The following skeleton key shows a form which I believe meets all these requirements, and it is presented for criticism in the hope that after discussion some form of key may be found which will meet with general approval. Sections 3 and 3′ show length of printed lines when several lines are required for a section.

KEY TO SPECIES *a-h* OF THE GENUS X

1.	Tarsi spurred	2.
1′.	Tarsi not spurred	5.
2 (1).		*a.*
2′.		3.
3 (2′).		
		4.
3′.		
		b.
4 (3).		*c.*
4′.		*d.*
5 (1′).		*e.*
5′.		6.
6 (5′).		*f.*
6′.		*g.*
6″.		*h.*

E. B. WILLIAMSON
BLUFFTON, INDIANA

THE Y-CHROMOSOME TYPE OF SEX-LINKED INHERITANCE IN MAN

IN a short article which appeared in the *Journal of Heredity* for November, 1921, Richard Schofield describes a case of human inheritance which has very great theoretical interest. It involves the transmission through four generations of a condition called webbed toes. The condition is found only in male members of the family and is transmitted from father to son, never to a daughter nor through a daughter to her sons.

It thus has the distribution in heredity of a Y-chromosome, a structure found only in the male-determining spermatozoa of certain animals and never in their eggs. The Y-chromosome accordingly is a structure possessed by male individuals only and thus forms an appropriate vehicle for the transmission of characters from father to son, quite independently of the female line of descent. All this was pointed out by Schmidt in a contribution from the Carlsberg Laboratory, which I reviewed in SCIENCE for April 8, 1921, under the title "A New Type of Inheritance." Schmidt described in a fish the first known case of inheritance of this type. This has since been confirmed in the case of another species of fish by a Japanese observer, so that it may now be regarded as well established. Schofield's article