

tion, and the indications are that experiments will be made to find out whether the proposed system is superior to the tests now used. The resolution sets forth that intelligence tests have been given to soldiers of the United States during and since the World War; applied by the United States Public Health Service to a limited number of immigrants of doubtful admission; used by the United States in civil service examinations; in schools, colleges and universities in classifying pupils and students; by insurance and other large companies in selecting salesmen; in large industries for classifying men in work most adaptable to them, and by business enterprises in the selection of office forces. Students of the problems relating to immigration have indicated a belief that the standard of immigrants seeking admission to the United States may be raised by the application of the intelligence tests, and the secretary of labor and the surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service have full power and authority to apply such tests. The resolution directs the secretary of labor and the surgeon general of the Public Health Service to inform the House why scientific data, including the intelligence tests, can not be applied in all cases for the exclusion of undesirable immigrants.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE Rockefeller Foundation and the General Education Board have each given \$1,250,000 to the College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa. The legislature will be asked to appropriate \$2,500,000 at the rate of \$450,000 a year for the building and equipment of hospitals and laboratories.

THE sum of \$50,000 left by the late Charles S. Baylis reverts to the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute by the death of Mrs. Baylis on November 15.

DR. JOSIAH H. PENNIMAN was elected provost, or the "educational or academic head" of the University of Pennsylvania, on December 27. He had been acting provost since the resignation of Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith about three years ago. At the same time the board of trustees created an "executive administrative" office, to be known as the "president of

the university." This is the position that it was planned should be filled by General Leonard Wood.

D. W. MOREHOUSE, professor of physics and astronomy at Drake University, has been elected dean of the college of liberal arts.

AT Yale University, Dr. Lorande Loss Woodruff, professor of biology, has been elected professor of protozoology.

DR. MORRIS S. KHARASCH, formerly national research fellow in organic chemistry at the University of Chicago, has been appointed associate professor of organic chemistry at the University of Maryland.

DR. RICHARD C. LORD, at one time instructor at Washington and Lee University and later engaged in industrial chemistry, has been elected assistant professor of chemistry and physics at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

AT Dartmouth College, Assistant Professor R. D. Beetle has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics, and Assistant Professor C. E. Wilder, of Northwestern University, has been appointed to an assistant professorship.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### THE INDEXING OF BIOLOGICAL LITERATURE

I HAVE been much interested in Dr. Schramm's excellent discussion in *SCIENCE* of November 3, and since the whole subject of abstracting and indexing is up for reconsideration, it may be opportune to add a few remarks from a zoological standpoint.

It may fairly be said that American zoologists do not pay enough attention to the literature of their subject outside of the very narrow field of their specialty. In spite of the broadening tendencies of modern genetic research, we do not seem to be able to escape from a narrowness which sometimes prevents those working on one group from even being aware of the existence of distinguished colleagues specializing in another. Thus it comes about that the development of numerous special journals, necessary as these are, is actually detrimental to zoology as a whole if there is no broader survey of the field which specialists

read. Every technical monograph contains material which should be of great interest to *all* zoologists, but such works are published and go to a small number of specialists, frequently with not even a review to call the attention of a wider public. The zoologist is in danger of becoming what the Greeks called *idiotes*, one who lives to himself and has no part in the larger affairs even of zoology.

It is not important to debate whether it was always so, or whether it is so elsewhere in greater degree. The evil is a real one, and should be met in such ways as Dr. Schramm indicates.

It must be said, however, that the fault is more with the zoologists themselves than with the means devised to serve them. The *Zoological Record*, which has been regularly published since 1864, should be a *sine qua non* to every zoologist, yet comparatively few use it. It has been, especially of late, as nearly perfect as a human thing may be. From it, I can learn in half an hour what species of *any* genus of animals have been described, placed in the synonymy, or referred to in important discussions, during say the last twenty years. I can learn what species have been described from Samoa or Spain; what contributions have been made to comparative physiology or anatomy, and in short anything of importance about animals, living or fossil. Personally, I subscribe to the complete volumes; but if I do not wish to do this, I can get the whole account of Protozoa for a year for three shillings, of mollusca for five shillings, of mammals for three, and so forth. Can there be a living student of mammals who will not pay 75 cents a year to have a complete index to the literature of his subject? Incredible as it may seem, there are dozens of them! The one thing the *Zoological Record* does not do, and which should be done, is to provide readable discussions of the literature, pointing out in an interesting way the nature of the advances and estimating their importance. This, however, can not be done efficiently unless the critical element is allowed to enter, unless the discussion becomes a review and not a mere abstract.

Something should be said about the card catalogue. I maintain card catalogues of my

own for particular purposes, and they are invaluable. But as a means of ready reference to zoology as a whole, or any large branch of it, cards are miserably inadequate. If I were furnished the whole contents of the *Zoological Record* on cards, I could neither find time to arrange them, nor space to take care of them. Furthermore, suppose the space and assistance provided, I could not use the catalogue with the same advantage. Thus, to ascertain the nature of the references to, say Equidæ, I should have to turn over hundreds of cards. On the pages of the *Record*, my eye runs rapidly over the assembled data, and I can cover the work of a year in a few moments. If I am concerned with some genus, on the printed page I find the related and segregated genera close at hand, and at once perceive or suspect their significance for my researches. With cards, if a species is not placed in the genus I am looking up, I almost certainly miss it altogether.

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NOVEMBER 22

#### SPECIFIC TERMS FOR THE PROTEOLYTIC ACTIVITY OF ANAEROBES

IN descriptions of anærobes the term "proteolytic" is very widely used, and in classification studies this activity of the organism is of very great importance in grouping. In some schemes it is given first consideration because it is a fundamental, deep-seated physiological character. However, the term does not carry a definiteness of meaning commensurate with its importance.

For example, the Medical Research Committee (1919) in their Special Report, Series No. 39,<sup>1</sup> on the classification of anærobes include *C. septique* in the proteolytic group because it liquefies gelatine, while in their Special Report, Series No. 12 (1917),<sup>2</sup> they place

<sup>1</sup> Medical Research Committee. 1919 National Health Insurance. Special Report Series, No. 39. Reports of the committee upon anærobic bacteria and infections. London, pp. 182.

<sup>2</sup> Medical Research Committee. 1917 National Health Insurance. Special Report Series, No. 12. The classification and study of the anærobic bacteria of war wounds. London, pp. 74.