mortiera, and in spite of certain differences which Goebel points out, I am inclined to believe that the two genera are pretty closely related. In Monoselenium there is a marked degeneration of the sporophyte, the elaters being quite rudimentary. Spores and elaters of the Oakland specimens agree exactly with Goebel's figures.

There can be no doubt that the Californian specimens have been introduced with nursery stock from China or Japan, and a careful search in those countries would probably show that the plant is not an exceptionally rare one.

DOUGLAS HOUGHTON CAMPBELL
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

COAL BALLS

I AM anxious to obtain information on American coal balls, such as have been found mostly, up to now, in the coal seams of England and northern France, and which were used by J. Lomax in Bolton, England, for his magnificent thin sections of paleozoic plants. The coal balls have not been reported anywhere in North American coal seams, but they exist here. A splendid specimen of such a coal ball was obtained by the Illinois State Geological Survey at Harrisburg, Illinois, O'Gara Mine No. 9, and others were collected by myself in coal seam No. 5 in Illinois and coal seam No. 9 in Kentucky. Recently a coal ball from Newcastle, Texas, was sent to me by W. E. Wrather. These so-called coal balls are well preserved and petrified plant tissues which appear in brown or black lumps in upper portions of coal seams. Their preservation is due there to penetration by silica or calcium carbonate. They allow microscopic examination of the most minute details. I think some of the bone coal, called so by miners, and quoted occasionally in literature, may be coal balls.

It would be extremely gratifying if a sufficiently large number of American coal balls would be discovered to increase materially our knowledge of carboniferous plant morphology which is now exclusively based on English and French material. I shall be very glad to receive any communications from coal operators or state surveys which may lead to the discovery of deposits of coal balls.

A. C. NOÉ
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

A FUND FOR GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN LABORATORIES RAISED BY THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED IN THEM

"We should rather through the instrumentality of men of science soften the asperities of national hostility."—Humphry Davy to a delegation from the French Academy which went to London in 1807 while war was in progress between England and France.

The desperate financial condition of the German and Austrian laboratories is well known. If any one desires to help a specified laboratory or a specified head of a laboratory, any contribution given will be sent as from the donor directly to the individual in charge of such laboratory.

The following individuals were the first to subscribe to this fund, which already reaches $2,175:

Abel, J. J.; Baldwin, E. R.; Carlson, A. J.; Chittenden, R. H.; Conner, L. A.; Cushing, H.; Dakin, H. D.; Farnam, H. W.; Greenwald, I.; Hatcher, R. A.; Howland, J.; Kerr, A. T.; Kingsbury, B. J.; Lee, F. S.; Lilienthal, H.; Lusk, G.; Marine, D.; Means, J. H.; Meigs, E. B.; Mendel, L. B.; Niles, W. L.; Palmer, Mrs. W. W.; Peabody, F. W.; Pierce, H. F.; Pike, F. H.; Pratt, J. H.; Pritchett, H. S.; Ringer, A. I.; Robinson, C.; Scott, E. L.; Shaffer, P. A.; Simpson, S.; Sollman, T.; Stern, Miss F.; Talbot, F. B.; Tiffany, Mrs. C. L.; Wallace, G. B.; Wilder, R. M.; Woodyatt, R. T.

Checks of $5 to $150 have been received: any sum will be welcomed.

Make checks payable to Graham Lusk, *Treasurer,* 477 First Avenue, New York City. The fund will be closed on May first.

GRAHAM LUSK
CORNELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE AND THE PACIFIC

ON the invitation of the Commonwealth Government, which has promised the sum of £5,000 towards the cost, a Pan-Pacific Congress is to be held in Melbourne and Sydney in August and September of this year. The National Research Council of Australia has arranged an extensive program and invitations are being issued to the scientific men of countries bordering on, or having interests in, the Pacific. The Pacific Ocean is a geographical and biological unit, and many problems of