ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the Dominion Government that the Federal Fisheries Department is about to establish a new biological station at Prince Ruppert, B. C. It will be utilized for research work in connection with the fisheries of the coast, and also for the dissemination of information of educational value.

The British Medical Journal writes: "The munificent gift made by the Rockefeller Foundation to University College, London, and its Medical School, will not have been forgotten. It has been, however, long understood that the foundation did not intend to limit to London the financial assistance it would give to medical educational institutions in Great Britain. We understand that the foundation has for some time been making inquiries in Edinburgh, and is about to provide the cost of a clinical research laboratory there; it is also considering the endowment of a chair in clinical surgery."

THE twenty-fourth biennial edition of the directory of the Washington Academy of Sciences has been issued. This contains the names and addresses of members of the academy and of each of the sixteen affiliated societies. A list of the scientific and technical societies of Washington which are not affiliated with the academy, and of national societies having headquarters or offices in Washington, is also included.

BY the provisions of the will of the late Dr. William Johnson Walker two prizes are annually offered by the Boston Society of Natural History for the memoirs written in the English language. For the best memoir presented a prize of sixty to one hundred dollars may be awarded; for the next best memoir a prize not exceeding fifty. The subject for 1924 is any work in the field of botany, for 1925, any work in the field of geology or mineralogy.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE College of Forestry of Syracuse University has received as a gift from Charles Lathrop Pack, of Lakewood, N. J., a tract of 1,000 acres of Adirondack forest land at Barber Point, Cranberry Lake. It will be known as the Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest.

ACCORDING to an announcement from Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, a fellowship in metallurgy of the value of $750 has been established by the department of metallurgical and mining engineering, for which an appointment is to be made immediately. The first problem to be studied under the fellowship is "an investigation of the effects of small percentages of phosphorus on the physical properties of low carbon steel especially under alternating stresses and shock."

LADY RODDICK has given $50,000 for the erection of an entrance to the grounds of McGill University in memory of her husband, the late Sir Thomas Roddick.

DR. ORLANDO H. PETTY, physician in charge of the Department of Metabolism of the Philadelphia General Hospital, has been appointed professor of the diseases of metabolism in the graduate school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

DR. DAVID P. BARR, assistant professor of medicine at the Cornell University Medical College, has been appointed Busch professor of medicine by Washington University, St. Louis.

DR. H. C. HOWARD, formerly research chemist on the staff of the B. F. Goodrich Co., is now assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Missouri.

DR. FAY-COOPER COLE, assistant professor of anthropology in Northwestern University and curator in the Field Museum of Natural History, has been appointed to give instruction in the department of sociology and anthropology at the University of Chicago.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

UNIFORMITY IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

To close the discussion, may I say that Mr. Russell's statement in SCIENCE, November 30, 1923, pp. 442–3, needs careful reading. He says:

> The Troy pound (which is Mr. McAdie's another kind of pound) was abolished as a legal weight in the United Kingdom eighty years ago and the Troy pound is likewise entirely obsolete in the United States. There is accordingly only one pound weight in the United States and United Kingdom.

This conveys the impression (while not explicitly saying so) that the Troy pound *has been legally abolished* in the United States and is entirely obsolete.

On the contrary the only authorized material standard of weight in this country is the Troy pound at the Mint (if we except Kilogram No. 20, delivered at the White House January 2, 1890). Moreover if one asks for a pound of gold at the Mint (we have no present intention of doing so) he will get 12 ounces, 5,760 grains. But the farmer who sells a pound of golden butter must give 16 ounces, 7,000 grains, or go to jail. Some day some farmer Senator will discover this and use it as campaign ammunition.

Mr. Russell says "the long ton is obsolescent." Uncle Sam then must be sound asleep, for the United States Government requires in fuel deliveries 2,240

lbs. to the ton. Most large corporations do likewise. Personally we are entirely willing to pay for a hundredweight of coal and receive 112 pounds, that is, eight stones (a stone as we all *readily* remember being 14 pounds). But we only get an uncertain number of stones in each ton; and the ton remains 2,000 pounds. We are thankful that there is not a Troy ton, or we might get that (1,500 lbs.).

Mr. Russell argues that the old English weights and measures are uniform and consistent. He therefore proposes a new ounce to weigh 436.947 grains. We now have two ounces, one of 437.5 grains and another of 480. Who then could tell how many grains there were in a pound, a hundredweight or a ton? Why not let the grain depart in peace? No one now uses it, whereas the grain is in general use among scientific men and is entirely satisfactory.

ALEXANDER MCADIE

AN ILLUMINATING METHOD OF HANDLING DATA

THERE has come to my observation a notable method of treating data, one worthy the attention of the curious in such matters, and casting light upon certain other things of interest. A circular letter entitled "Biologists under cross-examination on the inheritance of acquired characters," to which is attached the name of Casper L. Redfield, has recently been distributed. Appended to it are what purport to be "parts of letters received" from certain biologists in answer to inquiries from various persons concerning the inheritance of the effects of the organism's responses to its environment (as distinguished from the direct action of the environment). With regard to these letters it is stated that "in the cases in which the question was directly answered, that answer was usually confined to one or two sentences in a letter filled with irrelevant matter," and as to the replies quoted it is said that "the replies given are simply those parts of the letters received which answer the questions asked—irrelevant matter being omitted." Among these replies the following (in answer to an inquiry from a Mr. Herdman) is given as my contribution:

> *Dear Mr. Herdman:* I have little or nothing that will help you. Redfield's work has been criticised as unsound. Otherwise, nothing has been published.
>
> H. S. JENNINGS.

The pertinent points regarding this are as follows:

(1) My letters to Mr. Herdman contain no such passage or passages. Not one of the sentences quoted is found in my letters to Mr. Herdman or to any one else.

(2) Except for the trend of the comment on Mr. Redfield's work the passage does not give even remotely the sense of what I wrote. In addition to Mr. Redfield's writings I referred the inquirer to Kammerer's extensive work, which is almost entirely on the heritability of the organism's responses to the environment; to Semon's book, "Das Problem der Vererbung Erworbener Eigenschaften," which contains accounts of many investigations along this line; to the recent work of Griffith and Detlefsen on the inheritance of the reactions produced in rats by whirling, and to other works. I did not say, "I have little or nothing that will help you," for I hoped that these references would help him. And I obviously did not say that other than Redfield's work "nothing has been published," since I gave references to other things that had been published. I am driven to conclude that these two sentences are metamorphoses of the following. After the somewhat extended letter, with references to the literature, above mentioned, a brief second letter to Mr. Herdman (in answer to an inquiry as to the nature of the criticisms on Redfield) said: "I felt that I had little or nothing to add that would help you, so that I have not hurried about replying." (Note the words "to add," the omission of which from the ostensible quotation completely changes the sense). After referring him to Pearl's review of Redfield, my summary of the situation concluded by saying that "a great many persons have worked along lines similar to this, but in most cases the results have been negative, so that nothing has been published on the work or the work has attracted no attention, since there were no definite results." Nothing else in my letters bears the least resemblance in either words or meaning to the first and third sentences in what purport to be "parts of the letters received" from me.

The student of scientific method will find it an enlightening exercise to analyze in detail the methods employed in the author's treatment of the raw data given above, in order to get out of them his finished product; to formulate the general principles under which these operations are carried out; and to meditate upon the wonderful potentialities opened up by the application of these methods and principles to the data of genetics. Upon the reader that will carry out this analysis a great light will dawn as to how it happens that the author claims that the matters discussed in his published works demonstrate the inheritance of acquired characters; and as to the weight to be given to those claims.

H. S. JENNINGS

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

SOME IMMIGRANT CLOVERS

IN April, 1923, my attention was called by Professor Paul Tabor, of the Georgia Agricultural College, Athens, Georgia, to a clover said to be growing in