

DR. W. K. GREGORY, of the American Museum of Natural History, has been made professor of paleontology in Columbia University.

DR. JOHN HINCHMAN STOKES, head of the section of dermatology and syphilology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., has been elected to the professorship of dermatology in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

THE department of entomology at the University of Kansas has been reorganized, with Dr. H. B. Hungerford as head and also state entomologist for the southern half of the state. Other members of the department are Dr. Paul B. Lawson, Mr. Philip A. Read, Mr. R. H. Beamer and Miss Kathleen Doering.

DR. LOUIS K. OPPITZ, of Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., has been elected professor of physics at Colorado State Teachers College, Greeley, Colo. During the coming summer Dr. Oppitz will teach physics at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

DR. OTTO MEYERHOF, associate professor of physiology at the University of Kiel, who was recently awarded the Nobel prize in medicine for his work on muscles, has been called to Berlin.

DR. PAUL SCHERRER, professor of physics in the Zurich Technical School, has been called to the University of Bern as successor to Professor A. Forster.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

MAGNETIZATION CURVE, NAMES FOR ITS PARTS

THE magnetization or B-H curve of iron (see Fig. 1) is used and discussed by physicists and engineers so much that its different parts deserve separate names. At the present time the "knee" is the only recognized term in several languages, and the other

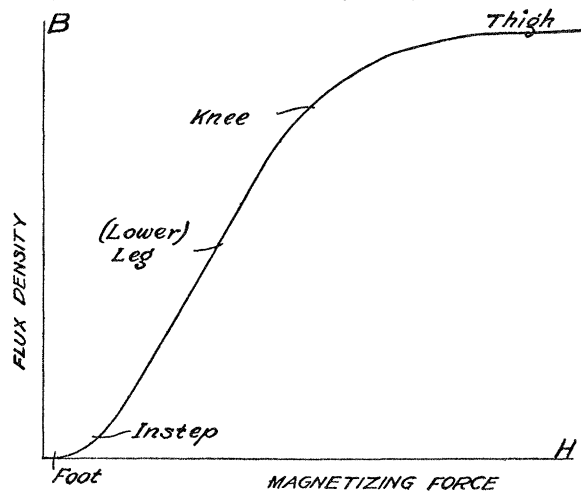


FIG. 1

parts are only referred to descriptively as "below the knee," "above the knee," "on the saturated part," etc. In writing or speaking about this curve I have felt at times handicapped by such a lack of recognized terms, and I propose to call the remaining parts of the curve in accordance with the common names for the parts of the human lower limb, namely, the *foot*, the *instep*, the *leg* (or lower leg), and the *thigh*. The names "leg" and "thigh" can also be used for the corresponding parts of a saturation curve of an electric machine, for the parts of a mechanical stress-strain diagram below and above the elastic limit, etc.

The only objection to such terms is that they have to be different in each civilized language, and it may be preferable to give them the corresponding Latin or Esperanto names. This will also meet the objection of some older people about mentioning lower limbs in society.

VLADIMIR KARAPETOFF

CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
ITHACA, N. Y.

THE LEARNING CURVE FOR A SNAIL

YERKES trained an earthworm to go through a T-maze made of glass some twelve years ago. Miss Mary Pinkney Mitchell, a student in the educational psychology laboratory of University of Denver, working under the direction and guidance of the writer, has now trained a land snail, *Goniobasis pleuristriata* Say, for three months, using some three trials a day. The apparatus is a glass T-maze somewhat similar to that of Yerkes, the drive used is light from a 75-watt Mazda lamp. Hibernation of the snail was prevented by keeping it in an improvised incubator.

The training of the snail was begun December 3, and is being continued. The average time for the first five trials in the maze was 857 seconds, and for the last five trials to date is 316 seconds. The total errors for first five trials were 4, and there are now no errors made at all. In all there have been 102 trials made by the snail. There are of course fluctuations in the time curve, but there is a positive tendency for the time to decrease with successive trials so that the smoothed-out curve indicates learning of a more or less permanent character.

THOMAS R. GARTH

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Social Psychology. By FLOYD HENRY ALLPORT, associate professor of psychology, University of North Carolina. Houghton Mifflin Co. Pp. viii + 453.

Of late years there has been some tendency to con-