gienic merits of paper money and coin has recently been carried out in Berlin. The results are published in the *Archiv für Hygiene*. In commenting on them the *Lancet* states that 'infectious diseases may be spread by paper money more frequently than by any other article in use among the people.' It was found that coined money is innocuous, owing to the self-disinfecting action of the metal itself, and because its small, smooth surface prevents the development of germs. 'The dirtiest piece of copper is, from the standpoint of a bacteriologist, better than newly-issued paper money.' In post-war banknotes for some time in circulation up to 143,000 bacteria were found. In pre-war notes the highest find was 3,000 bacteria. The post-war note is, of course, much more frequently handled than were the notes of the pre-war period. The notes manufactured of 'laid' paper were the worst offenders, as germs tend to stick to them. The investigator studied the vitality of the germs and found that *streptococci*—the germs of blood and other poisonings—were virulent 54 hours, while enteric fever bacilli lived 11–96 days. Dysentery germs lived 17–52 days."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

STUDENTS of the International Y. M. C. A. College at Springfield, Mass., have pledged approximately $30,000 to the $2,500,000 endowment and expansion fund of the college. The undergraduate pledge brings the total amount now subscribed to the fund up to $1,523,935 with $976,065 yet to be raised before the campaign ends July 1, 1925.

JOINT action by the trustees of the Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Hospital was taken on May 14, in the appointment of a joint committee headed by Dr. Frank J. Goodnow, president of the university, to bring into closer association the two institutions. The joint committee is charged with the responsibility of surveying and providing for the needs of the two institutions in connection with the university's coming semi-centennial, in 1926.

DR. W. S. LEATHERS, executive officer of the Mississippi State Board of Health and dean of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, has accepted the appointment of professor of preventive medicine in Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He will take up his work at Nashville following a year of travel and study in Europe. Dr. Hugh J. Morgan, at present resident physician at the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, and Dr. C. Sidney Burwell, instructor in medicine at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, have been appointed associate professors of medicine.

AT Harvard University Dr. Frederick H. Verhoeff has been promoted to a professorship of ophthalmic research. Other promotions in the Medical School include: Dr. Joseph T. Wearn to assistant professor of medicine; Dr. Robert M. Green to assistant professor of applied anatomy; Dr. Frederick S. Burns to assistant professor of dermatology, and Dr. Benjamin White to assistant professor of bacteriology and immunology and preventive medicine and hygiene.

AT the University of Chicago, Associate Professor A. C. Lunn has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics.

DR. W. KOEHLER, professor of psychology at the University of Berlin, will lecture at Clark University during the second half of the coming academic year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

DALTON AS A NAME FOR THE UNIT OF ATOMIC WEIGHT

THE unit of atomic weight is the only unit of measurement in wide use without a name, and a suitable name for it is often desirable for clear expression of ideas. Especially is such a name desired when one is attempting to explain the concept of atomic and molecular weights to beginning students of chemistry. There was a time when the reality of atoms and molecules was questioned by some of the most eminent chemists, and therefore it was well to cultivate the concept of atomic weights as being merely relative weights. But that day has passed. The actual existence of atoms is universally accepted and therefore atomic weights are not only relative weights but are also actual weights. To continue to instruct a student that atomic weights are simply relative weights is not modern. If the concept of actual weights is to be presented it can not be done conveniently without the unit having a name. Because of the historical connection the name dalton is suggested. The atom of oxygen would weigh 16 daltons, hydrogen 1.008 daltons, etc.

Correlation of the dalton with the gram can be made through Avogadro's number. If 32 grams of oxygen contain 6.06×10^{23} molecules (12.12×10^{23} atoms) and if each atom is given a weight of 16 daltons, then one dalton $= 0.0_{23}1650$ grams.

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THE CARDIO-INHIBITORY CENTER

IN a recent article (*Journ. Physiol.*, vol. lviii, p. 168, 1923) on the localization of the vaso-motor center, Scott and Roberts refer to a paper (*Amer. Journ. Physiol.*, vol. xxxix, p. 149, Dec., 1915) on the cardio-inhibitory center by Bowman and myself and, by their remarks, indicate that they have not clearly understood our meaning. I desire to em-