ON May 19 the advisory committee, appointed by the secretary of agriculture to guide the activities of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, met in Duluth to consider the problems confronting timberland owners in the three Lake States and to pass upon the program of investigations proposed for the coming year.

AS a part of a comprehensive plan to improve the industries of Cincinnati, the Commercial Club of Cincinnati is financing a scientific study of raw materials in Ohio and other states which may be commercially tributary. The work is to be done in the University of Cincinnati, largely by the staff of the department of geology and geography, suitably increased for this purpose. After collecting available data, supplementary field work will be necessary. Provision is also made for technological work. The work will continue several years and will cost at least $50,000.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has been given $200,000 for the construction of a new administration building, by Arthur Lehman, a New York banker. In addition it is announced that a large part of the new endowment fund has been raised. Of the $3,000,000 allotted to the division of chemistry, $2,080,000 has been specifically donated, and of the $2,000,000 desired for the division of fine arts, $1,145,000 has already been obtained.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made a grant of $500,000 to the Medical Faculty of McGill University. Dr. Jonathan C. Meakins, Christison professor of therapeutics and professor of clinical medicine at Edinburgh University, has been appointed director of the medical clinic to be established in the Royal Victoria Hospital and he will also be professor of medicine and director of the department of medicine of McGill University.

DEAN EDWARD MORGAN LEWIS has been elected acting president of Massachusetts Agricultural College to take the place of Kenyon L. Butterfield, who has resigned to become president of the Michigan Agricultural College.

PROFESSOR G. D. BIRKHOFF, of Harvard University, will be exchange professor at Pomona, Colorado and Grinnell Colleges during the first half of the academic year 1924–25.

DR. HERBERT W. ROGERS, at present engaged in research work for the National Research Council at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed associate professor of psychology at the University of Vermont.

DR. THOMAS B. HOLLOWAY has been elected professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, to succeed Dr. George E. de Schweinitz.

AT the University of Arizona Dr. Paul S. Burgess, formerly with the Rhode Island Experiment Station, has been appointed professor of agricultural chemistry, and John B. Cunningham, formerly professor of metallurgy and head of the department of metallurgy at the Michigan School of Mines, has been appointed professor of metallurgy.

DR. ALBERT H. BYFIELD has resigned from the position of professor of pediatrics in the school of medicine of the University of Iowa, and is planning to spend the coming year in study abroad.

THE University of Cincinnati announces the appointment of Charles H. Behre, Jr., formerly instructor in geology at Lehigh University, to the position of assistant professor in the department of geology and geography. His duties will include much of the work in connection with the recently instituted survey of raw materials in the region commercially tributary to Cincinnati, together with some teaching in the university. Dr. Geoffrey Gilbert, formerly assistant in the department of geology at Harvard University, has been appointed to fill the position at Lehigh University vacated by Mr. Behre.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE BONES OF RAFINESQUE

THE name of Constantine Rafinesque is well known to all students of natural history in America. He was born in Constantinople in 1785, of a French father and German mother (Schmaltz). He wrote on the fishes and plants of Sicily. Coming to America in 1802, he wandered widely on foot in Kentucky and neighboring states, loading his "pack under which a pedlar might groan" with plants and shells, and his notebooks with records of fishes and birds, accompanied by execrable drawings, from which he too often drew up his descriptions. A man of great industry, rare insight, wide-ranging knowledge and interest, and distressingly careless as to details. One of the early apostles of evolution, he found no one to listen to his arguments, profound in fact, but often most casually stated. For thirteen years (1813 to 1826) Rafinesque was professor in the then new, but now old, Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, where he found a friend and defender in John Clifford, one of the very few who could know him at his best, in a community which mostly doubted his sanity.

He died in Philadelphia in 1840, in abject poverty

and was buried in the pauper lot of Ronaldson Cemetery. Only the intervention of two or three students saved him from the medical college. In 1919 a stone was placed over his grave by Mr. Henry C. Mercer, of Doylestown. This reads:

CONSTANTINE S. RAFINESQUE
Naturalist and Philosopher
Born, Constantinople, 1785
Died, Philadelphia, Sept. 18, 1840
To do good to mankind has ever been an ungrateful task.
The work of God to study and explain
Is happy toil and not to live in vain.

Other epitaphs suggested by Rafinesque himself were these:

Un voyageur dès le berceau
Je le serai jusqu'au tombeau.

Linné, grand génie, il a choisi pour guide.

Quite recently Transylvania has interested itself afresh in the most famous of its line of professors. Mrs. Charles F. Norton, librarian, sent to Philadelphia for a photograph of the headstone, intending this as a gift to the Rafinesque Botanical Club of the university. It was found that the cemetery was to be turned into a public park. On learning this, Mr. James A. Spencer, a brother of Mrs. Norton, "expressed a wish that Transylvania, which had loved and honored Rafinesque, might have his body, which was buried in a neglected grave."

This plan was duly carried out in March, 1924, as I learn from Mrs. Norton, and the bones of the restless explorer now lie in the campus of Transylvania.

It is no longer true, as the present writer said forty years ago, in a biographical sketch of "A neglected naturalist," that "we know not even the place where he rests after his long journey."

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NAMING AND EXACT NAMING

IN SCIENCE, vol. 45, page 190, 1917, I called the attention of my colleagues to the need for more complete titles, suggesting that in biological papers the name of the animal studied be given. This is now more often done, but owing to the still frequent omission of this datum, the difficulty thus introduced in collecting the literature on a given animal is painfully evident to any one who has made the attempt.

I beg now to present a further request touching the name of the rat, an animal so largely used for a variety of biological investigations.

The term "white rat" has appeared not infrequently in recent titles, but this says nothing concerning the color of the eyes. If, for this, the term "albino rat" were employed, there could be no question as to the variety used, and some day this may prove to be important.

Further, several active laboratories now use the pied rat, not the albino. Though the pied rat is very close to the albino in many respects, yet there are differences between the two strains, and it will be of the greatest assistance in the more refined studies on this animal—studies which are already upon us—to know exactly the form employed, for it is increasingly evident in the biological field that before giving any results, the animal studied should be precisely named.

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THE SCIENTIST AND AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

AT the general meeting of the American Philosophical Society, held in April, it was my privilege to present a paper on "The scientist and an international language." This will appear in the *Proceedings* of that society; but as the subject seems to have attracted some attention on the part of scientists and of the public press, I should like to lay the matter before the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. My thesis is, that as the scientist is nowadays overworked by the necessity of learning a considerable number of languages in order to read the literature of his field, he needs a single international medium, in which publications intended for or deserving of an international clientele should be published; further, that Latin is the logical choice for this use.

Latin had such an international use until nearly the end of the eighteenth century, but by that time was displaced by English, French and German. Today, with the recrudescence of certain minor linguistic units and the increased nationalistic spirit of certain larger ones, we face a time when scientific publications of value may appear in perhaps twenty languages. The task even now has become too heavy, and many publications of value remain inaccessible or unknown to those who should be able to avail themselves of them. A common medium must be sought, either a modern language or Latin or an artificial language.

For the natural scientist, the *sine qua non* in his choice is that the international language should convey the thought with objective certainty. Any artificial language can show no such objectivity; but