HAROLD A. LARRABEE, who has just returned from a year of study in Europe on a fellowship from Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of psychology in the University of Vermont.

PAUL E. EATON, of Ithaca, N. Y., has been appointed assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Lafayette College.

APPOINTMENTS to the staff of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine have been made as follows: Dr. George Fetterolf, professor of otolaryngology, succeeding Dr. Burton Alexander Randall, retired; Dr. J. Claxton Gittings, professor of pediatrics, succeeding Dr. J. P. Crozer Griffiths, also retired, and Dr. William C. Stadie, assistant professor of research medicine.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE TEMPERATURE OF MARS

IN a note published in the issue of SCIENCE of October 24, *Science Service* anonunces the results of the measurements on Mars, taken at Mt. Wilson. These measurements indicate that the noonday temperature on the Martian equator is about 10° C. or 42° F. Then, referring to the results obtained at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, previously announced in SCIENCE of September 26, in which the temperature of Mars under a noonday sun was found found to be *up to* 20° C. (*sic*) the comment is made that these two "observations are not in complete agreement."

In view of the fact that this statement has already caused doubts in the minds of some of those uninitiated in the intricacies of the problem a few supplementary remarks are in order.

When we consider 10° C. with 20° C. then it is true that there is a difference of 10° C.—and this on a planet 34 millions of miles away. But it is of interest to note that, if two laboratories undertook to measure the radiation from some close-by terrestrial source, at 15° C., the chances are that their temperature estimates would differ by 10°—and they would not be harrassed by the incompletely solved question of the spectral transmission of a dense atmosphere like that of the Earth, not to mention the everchanging clouds on Mars. But 10° C. difference has no significance in comparison with what has been accomplished as a whole. For instead of disagreement it means agreement. It means that for the first time in history two observatories, working independently, have arrived at the conclusion, radiometrically, that the noonday temperature of the surface of Mars is considerably above 0° C., which is the view held by astronomers who, for years, have been making the observations visually.

No wonder I am receiving protests from some who, relying upon calculations which indicate maximum temperatures far below 0° C., say "You are wrong." Quite naturally, it is comforting to me to see the Flagstaff work of 1922 (from which temperature estimates of 10° to 20° C. were obtained) and of the present opposition of Mars, confirmed by the powerful instruments at Mt. Wilson.

On the other hand, the calculators of planetary temperatures can take comfort in the remark, made by the late Professor Edward Morley, that the mathematical mill is no different from any other—you grind out what you put in, nothing more. When we have sufficient and accurate data, upon which to base our assumptions, the calculated planetary temperatures will no doubt be in agreement with the observations.

W. W. COBLENTZ

TRENDS OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY

IN "Trends of modern geography" (SCIENCE, October 24, 1924, pp. 374–376), Dr. Clarence F. Jones has presented the viewpoint of a number of human ecologists, here and abroad, who would narrow the field of geography by relegating physical geography to another sphere. Nevertheless, every geographer, as part of his geographical training, must study the sciences of the land, the water and the air as the fundamental bases of modern geography; for no indifferently understood foundation can uphold the vast superstructure of human relationships to natural environment. No student at Clark, for example, is given a graduate degree in geography unless he can show a reasonable understanding of at least the following phases of geography: physiography, meteorology and climatology, soils, native vegetation, agricultural geography and land utilization, economic geography and anthropogeography. Should not then human ecology be recognized as but the crowning phase, rather than pressed on us as constituting the whole of geography? Can there be geography without the "geo-"?

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NOTE REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF EAR CANKER IN RABBITS

As stated by David Marine, of Montefiore Hospital, New York, in SCIENCE of August 15, 1924, Vol. LX, p. 158, ear canker (*Psorocoptes cuniculi*) is one of the most troublesome diseases that has to be contended with in the rearing and care of rabbits. We have to be constantly on the alert to discover and treat it in the animal room of the Stanford Medical School. Our method, while different from the one recommended by Mr. Marine, is just as effective as the kerosene

spray which he recommends in the article referred to above. For many years we have used a 3 per cent. carbolized sweet oil. This should be sprayed or poured into the ear in sufficient amount to penetrate the paper-like structure which the mites construct. Any oil or member of the petroleum derivatives is instantly fatal to all insects and mites. Kerosene has the advantage of being more rapidly diffusible and penetrating than sweet oil; it is also more or less irritating and no doubt produces a smarting when applied to the sensitive inner surface of the ear. On the other hand, sweet oil acts less rapidly as regards penetration, but it is soothing and softens the scales, hastens desquamation of the dried epithelium and favors rapid healing; the phenol relieves the itching and antagonizes infection. The purpose of this note is not to criticize but simply to mention an additional therapeutic remedy for the disease.

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A METHOD FOR FACILITATING SCIENTIFIC READING

MUCH time is needlessly consumed by scientific workers in trying to locate in a journal or book some data they vaguely recall having read. I am not unusually impetuous, but it must be confessed that this particular loss of time has been extremely aggravating on occasions. For a period I projected, as psychologists now call it, my memory failings into the construction of the journals. I have said many bad things about editors for not furnishing a complete functional index with each volume, an index that would tell the research worker on just what pages lactic acid is mentioned or just where in the six hundred odd pages there are charts showing the development of fatigue effects in muscular work.

Perhaps I have wanted too much, but one must be consistent and maintain that there is at least some justification for his outbursts of criticism. At any rate the alphabetical list of authors or titles furnished annually by the journals does not provide fullest aid in locating missing tables and figures.

Criticism does not go very far. So it became necessary to make up for the editors' continued neglect. After trying several schemes I have decided that the one I shall describe leaves least to be desired. This is the adoption of visual tabs such as are used in office filing systems.

Whenever I chance across a reference to, or data on ventilation I now paste a strip of light lavendar paper about 5 mm by 20 mm on the upper edge of the page—provided, of course, it is my book or journal. In case it is a table of data that is being marked I write a "T" on the visible portion of the colored tab, which is about 5 mm square. If the tab happens to be indicating a chart the letter "C" is marked on the visible part, or "R" in case it marks a reference I am certain is not in my library or I do not have abstracted.

The complexity of such a functional index is limited only by the ingenuity and color discrimination of the user. At present I am using 26 colors without confusion, and with much saving of time and patience. Whenever I want research material for a class lecture or an article, for instance, on individual differences all I have to do is to thumb through the tops of my library and browse through the pages indicated by the blue tabs. If it is sex differences I am most interested in for the moment I open only the pages marked by the blue tabs with "sex" printed (by hand) on them; if it is racial differences only the blue tabs sub-divided by "race" are used as a guide in the reading. In an evening a hundred tables of data or charts or sagacious remarks can be located with a rapidity that brings great comfort and confidence.

Reprints can profitably be indexed in a similar fashion when they are read. Filing of these leaflets is usually accomplished in many modes which vary with the seasons. When a visual tab system is used to guide reference reading reprints may be filed in the easiest way to preserve their shape. The most economical way to do this is to punch two holes near the stapling and fasten two dozen or so together with large brass staples into a compact booklet. Related subjects can be stapled together, and those reprints that it is difficult to tell just where they belong in any rational classification—they are many—can be placed wherever the shelves need filling since the visual tabs will make the contents readily available on a moment's examination.

Colored tabs can be made from kindergarten paper which is easily obtained; the heavier the stock the better. These can be cut into strips 5 mm wide. Then these long strips can be cut *part way* across every two centimeters of their length, leaving about 1 mm of the stock holding the tabs in each strip together.

The best way to keep order in a hundred or more such strips has seemed to be to paste them on a piece of cardboard about 6 cm wide and as long as the number of colors (not strips) being used and anticipated indicate. The strips should be "tacked" on with a *small* area of paste along the long edge of the cardboard, so that the long axis of the colored strip is at right angles to the long axis of the cardboard. Several strips of the same color may be placed one