

Reptiles of Western North America," published by the California Academy of Sciences in 1922. This is a monumental work in two volumes, 1,028 pages and 128 excellent halftone plates, indispensable in the study of western American herpetology.

Dr. Van Denburgh's wide experience as a field naturalist, his knowledge of comparative anatomy and physiology, his expertness in laboratory technique, together with infinite patience and a genius for the interpretation of taxonomic relationships, enabled him to do research work of the highest order and to place him among the most able herpetologists of his time. His death while yet in his prime is an irreparable loss to the California Academy of Sciences and to herpetological science, as well as to his friends and coworkers.

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MOSELEYUM AND THE NAMES OF ELEMENTS¹

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for February 20, Professor Richard Hamer, of the University of Pittsburgh, Pa., enters a plea for naming the missing element of atomic number 43 before it is discovered; in view of the work of Bosanquet and Keeley (*Phil. Mag.*, 1924 (6), 145-147) and of others, he thinks that the discovery can not be long delayed, and also that by taking time by the forelock in this manner, subsequent controversy, like that which followed the discovery of hafnium, will not arise. Professor Hamer appeals to the scientific world to name the element "Moseleyum," in honor of the young British physicist who fell in Gallipoli, and to give it the symbol "Ms." In our view it would be a fitting tribute to the brilliant work of Moseley to perpetuate his name in some such way. Hitherto, no chemical element has been named after an individual (we exclude mercury, tantalum, thorium and titanium for an obvious reason), and opinion may be divided on the advisability of making the innovation. It is, however, a mistake to be bound by precedent in such a matter, and the only objection we can foresee to the adoption of Professor Hamer's suggestion is that the word is not particularly euphonious, and is rather suggestive of certain sepulchral monuments; but it might be argued that even this suggestiveness is not inappropriate, inasmuch as mausoleums are erected, as a rule, to the memory of the illustrious dead.

Referring to our note (*Nature*, April 11, p. 545) on Professor R. Hamer's suggestion to name the undis-

¹ From *Nature*.

covered element of atomic number 43 "moseleyum," after H. G. J. Moseley, Professor Irvine Masson writes that such action would not, as stated, be an innovation, as "one element is named after an individual: namely, Gadolinium, a rare-earth element, called after Gadolin." The historical facts appear to be as follows: The mineral gadolinite, discovered in 1788, was named after the Finnish chemist Johann Gadolin, who in 1794 discovered a new earth—yttria—in it. About a century later, Marignac showed that yttria (which he had obtained from samarskite) contained a new element, and when Lecoq de Boisbaudran announced to the Paris Academy of Sciences that Marignac had chosen for it the name "gadolinium," he gave no reason for the selection (*Comptes rendus*, 1886, p. 902). The case of the element samarium is somewhat similar. The complex parent mineral samarskite was, apparently, named after a Russian mine officer, Samarski. When the existence of the element was proved, Lecoq de Boisbaudran told the academy that the honor of its discovery really belonged to several investigators, and he proposed the name "samarium" because the word was "derivé de la racine qui a déjà servi à former le mot 'samarskite'" (*Comptes rendus*, 1879, p. 214). Whether the words "gadolinium" and "samarium" were derived directly, or indirectly, from the names of men or minerals appears of little moment; both perpetuate the names of individuals, and therefore, in this sense, the appellation "moseleyum" would have two precedents.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

THE American Association of Museums is holding its twentieth annual meeting at St. Louis. Sessions begin on Monday, May 18, and continue until Thursday noon. The Sunday preceding the meeting is to be the occasion of a sail down the Mississippi River and of other hospitalities tendered by the local committee.

The purpose of the association in choosing St. Louis for its meeting place is to assist a local group in efforts to establish a science museum in that city. St. Louis already has an art museum, a history museum and the best known school museum in the world. The last institution, the Educational Museum of the St. Louis public schools, is organized under the department of education and is devoted exclusively to school service.

The program of the St. Louis meeting follows:

SUNDAY, MAY 17

10:00 A. M. Registration at the Chase Hotel.

11:00 A. M. Visit to the Zoological Garden. Busses will take members and guests from the hotel.

12:00 M. Luncheon on Garden Lawn. Guests of the officers and members of the Zoological Society.

1:00 P. M. Trip down the Mississippi River. Guests of the local committee. Busses will take the party from the Zoological Garden to the harbor boat.

MONDAY, MAY 18

10:00 A. M. General session at the Chase Hotel.

Presiding: President Chauncey J. Hamlin.

Address of Welcome. John C. Tobin, president of the Board of Education.

Culture museums and the use of cultural material: Laura M. Bragg, director of the Charleston Museum.

2:00 P. M. General session at the Chase Hotel.

Training of museum workers. Report of the committee on courses in museology and discussion led by Dr. S. A. Barrett, director of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Museum finance and accounting. Report of the committee on finance and accounting and discussion led by Paul Marshall Rea, director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Museum ethics. Report of the committee on ethics and discussion led by Harold L. Madison, curator of education, of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

8:00 P. M. General session at the Chase Hotel.

The industrial museum. Illustrated lecture by Professor Charles R. Richards, director of the American Association of Museums.

8:45 P. M. Round tables. The three committees which reported in the afternoon hold simultaneous session to which all are welcome.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

10:00 A. M. General session at the Educational Museum of the St. Louis Public Schools.

Cooperation of educational resources of a community: Frederic Allen Whiting, director of the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Discussion. Presiding: Mr. Whiting.

11:30 A. M. Inspection of the museum.

13:30 P. M. Busses leave for the Missouri Botanical Garden.

1:30 P. M. Luncheon. Guests of the directors and the board of managers of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Inspection of the garden after luncheon.

7:00 P. M. Banquet at the Chase Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

10:00 A. M. General session at the City Art Museum.

Museum lighting. Symposium. Contributions by: Harry Ivan Day, New York, N. Y., S. Hurst Seager, F.R.I.B.A., past vice-president, New Zealand Institute of Architects, Benjamin Gilman, Boston, Mass.

Discussion and demonstration of principles of lighting: L. C. Kent, engineering department, National Lamp Works, Cleveland.

11:30 A. M. Inspection of the museum.

2:00 P. M. Trip to Cahokia mounds in Illinois.

Story of the mounds: Dr. Henry M. Whelpley, St. Louis.

6:00 P. M. Dinner meeting of the new council at the Chase Hotel.

8:00 P. M. General session at the Chase Hotel.

A program for Historical Society Museums: Dr. Arthur C. Parker, director of the Rochester Public Museum.

8:45 P. M. Round tables.

Art museum problems. Presiding: Robert B. Harshe, director of the Chicago Art Institute.

History of museum problems. Presiding: W. H. Cathcart, director of the Historical Society of Cleveland and the Western Reserve.

Science museum problems. Presiding: Dr. Arthur C. Parker, director of the Rochester Public Museum.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

10:00 A. M. General session at the Jefferson Memorial.

Museum and School: Dr. Carl G. Rathmann, director of the Educational Museum of the St. Louis Public Schools.

Discussion. Presiding: Dr. Rathmann.

11:30 A. M. Inspection of the memorial: Home of the Missouri Historical Society.

After luncheon the local committee will take the members and guests by automobile through the parks and surroundings of St. Louis.

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

At the 1924 meeting of the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research the Executive Committee of that organization was directed to take a census of pharmaceutical research. Accordingly a questionnaire was prepared for distribution and was sent to some 270 persons interested in pharmaceutical research. These question sheets brought returns which when tabulated recorded the names of 239 research workers who may be classified as follows:

Hospital pharmacists	3
Retail pharmacists	10
Pharmacists engaged in medical school and chemical school work	16
Governmental scientists doing pharmaceutical research	19
Non-pharmaceutical teachers and students doing pharmaceutical research (chiefly on the synthesis of medicinal chemicals)	28
Manufacturing pharmacists	72
Pharmaceutical teachers and their students	91
	<hr/>
	239

The complete list will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association* and a copy of it will be sent to any person writing H. V. Army, chairman of the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research, 115 West 68th St., New York City.