mittee, that the phenomena be *bona fide,* supernormal and due to some force not previously known to science (they shall not be due to conscious or subconscious behavior of the medium), and that the phenomena be subject to instrumental control, visible and produced in full light. All communications should be addressed to Dr. S. Burt Wolbach, professor of pathologic anatomy, Harvard Medical School, Boston, secretary to the committee, before November 1. The following have consented to serve on the committee: Harlow Shapley, Ph.D., director of the Harvard College Observatory; Theodore Lyman, Ph.D., director of the Jefferson Physical Laboratory, Harvard University; Dr. Walter B. Cannon, professor of physiology, Harvard University Medical School; Carroll C. Pratt, Ph.D., instructor in psychology, Harvard University, and Mr. Harry Houdini.

AT the meeting of the American Medical Association in Atlantic City, the following resolution, introduced by Dr. Horace M. Brown, of Milwaukee, in favor of the study of evolution was passed by the house of delegates:

WHEREAS, Legislatures in several states have enacted legislation relative to the teaching of scientific theories and facts in the educational institutions, and

WHEREAS, Legal procedure is now in process in the State of Tennessee to determine the right of the legislative body thus to inhibit the dissemination of scientific knowledge, and

WHEREAS, A study of the development of mankind ethnologically, embryologically and anthropologically is fundamental to the proper comprehension of scientific medicine; therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, that any restrictions of the proper study of scientific fact in regularly established scientific institutions be considered inimical to the progress of science and to the public welfare.

THE Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh has issued the Third Supplement to the institutional *Bibliographic Bulletin No. 1* and announces that copies of the publication are sent gratis to all interested persons. According to this supplement, 1 book, 9 bulletins, 35 research reports and 95 other scientific and technical papers were published during the calendar year 1924 by the institutional membership; 12 United States patents were also issued to industrial fellowship incumbents. The total contributions to literature for the thirteen years ended January 1, 1925, have been as follows: 12 books, 36 bulletins, 340 research reports, 509 other articles, and 260 United States patents. Among the noteworthy publications during 1924 were treatises on laundering, acetone and ventilators, and journal contributions on the food value of gelatin, utility of tile and of carbon dioxide, heat insulation, smoke abatement, refractories, coal carbonization, and prevention of corrosion.

ACCORDING to information received by the *Journal of Terrestrial Magnetism* from Professor Saeland, of the University of Christiania, a complete magnetic survey of Norway is at present in preparation under the auspices of the Norwegian Geophysical Commission, and if the necessary funds are made available, it is hoped that the work may be completed in five to ten years. It is also stated that according to information received from Dr. Richard Zimmerman, dated February 17, 1925, the requisite buildings for magnetic and atmospheric-electric work at the Tashkent Observatory are at present in process of erection. The photographic and absolute instruments for both classes of observations have been received from the Central Physical Observatory at Leningrad.

RESOLUTIONS calling for closer cooperation between the federal government and the states in water-development schemes and urging on the Congress the need to appropriate at least $500,000 annually to aid the Water Resources Branch of the Federal Geological Survey were adopted at the meeting of the administrative board of the American Engineering Council held on May 8 and 9 at the Engineers' Club, Philadelphia.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN additional gift of $2,000,000 has been given by James B. Duke to Duke University, formerly Trinity College. The gift increases the building fund previously created by Mr. Duke to $8,000,000.

KIRTLEY F. MATHER, associate professor of physiography at Harvard University, has been appointed chairman of the department of geology and geography. Professor R. A. Daly, for many years chairman of that department, is relinquishing his administrative duties in order that he may devote his entire time to research. Professor Mather is spending the summer making geological investigations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

DR. PAUL D. LAMSON, associate professor of pharmacology in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been appointed professor of pharmacology in Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

DR. W. W. CORT, associate professor of helminthology, in the department of medical zoology of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University, has been promoted to a professorship of helminthology. Dr. Norman R. Stoll has been appointed associate in the same department.

PROFESSOR LOREN C. PETRY, professor of botany at Syracuse University, who was on leave of absence last year from Syracuse to teach botany at Cornell University, has accepted a permanent professorship in the latter university.

DR. THOMAS G. PHILLIPS, professor of agricultural chemistry at the Ohio State University, has been appointed professor of agricultural chemistry and chemist of the experiment station at the University of New Hampshire.

DR. MARGARET M. HOSKINS has resigned her position as professor of anatomy at the Arkansas University Medical School to accept an appointment at the University and Bellevue Medical College, New York.

DR. WILLIAM KEILLER, dean of the University of Texas Medical Department, has tendered his resignation but will remain in office for another year. Dr. Charles T. Stone, associate professor of clinical medicine, has been appointed professor of medicine to succeed Dr. Marvin L. Graves.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

BACTERIAL CATALASE

IN a special article published in your issue of November 21, 1924, entitled "Enzymes of thermal algae," Professor R. B. Harvey draws attention to the absence of the ferment catalase in the alga Phormidium Laminosum, found in hot springs. The interest of this finding is undoubted, but it is not unique as the author appears to suppose, since he states "this is the first instance of its (catalase) absence from an organism having been demonstrated." Professor Harvey has apparently overlooked the literature on bacterial catalase, which although it is not very abundant has been slowly accumulating for the last twenty-two years.

Observations on bacterial catalase appear to have been first made in the year 1893 by Gottstein[1] and Beyerinck,[2] and from the onset Beyerinck pointed out the important differentiation afforded by testing bacteria for catalase activity, since lactic acid bacteria lacked it.

Löwenstein[3] was apparently the first to demonstrate the absence of catalase in an anaerobe ten years later. Orla-Jensen 1919[4] again drew attention very particularly to the absence of catalase in lactic acid bacteria. In 1923 McLeod and Gordon[5] suggested a bacterial classification based on the H_2O_2 forming capacities and catalase production of bacteria. Four classes of bacteria were suggested: No. 1, the anaerobes devoid of catalase and very sensitive to H_2O_2; No. 2, the lactic acid bacteria, capable of producing traces or small amounts of H_2O_2 in their cultures and relatively insensitive to that substance also devoid of catalase; No. 3, a few bacteria such as Shiga dysentery bacilli, devoid of catalase but not tending to form peroxide No. 4, the majority of faculative anaerobes and strict aerobes equipped with catalase in the same way that most other cells are.

Kluyver[6] suggests that the bacteria devoid of catalase are those which obtain energy and food entirely by cleavage of proteins and carbohydrates and which do not utilize oxygen.

JAMES WALTER MCLEOD

MEDICAL SCHOOL,
LEEDS, ENGLAND

[1] Gottstein, *Virchow's Archiv*, 133, 1893, p. 295.

[2] Beyerinck (*Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau* 8, 1893, p. 671) quoted by Kluyver, see below.

[3] Löwenstein, *Wiener klin. Wochs*, 16, 1903, p. 1393.

[4] Orla-Jensen, "The lactic acid bacteria, etc.," Memoires de l'Academie Roy. d. Sciences et d. Lettres de Danemark, 8me serie, 1919, v. 184.

[5] McLeod and Gordon, *Journal of Path. and Bact.*, 26, 1923, p. 326.

[6] Kluyver, *Zeits. f. Physiol. Chem.*, 138, 1924, p. 100.

THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

IN SCIENCE for March 13 (61, 286, 1925), Professor A. L. Candy writes on the reform of the calendar, the burden of his article being that a calendar of 13 months of 4 weeks each is less desirable than one of 4 quarters of 91 days, 3 months each.

Calendar reformers have for many years been dividing the 52 weeks of the year into 13 times 4 in two ways, 13 months of 4 weeks each, or 4 quarters of 13 weeks each. The first proposal, being the more radical, has naturally received more newspaper advertising in this country; but because of the enormous number of transactions in every-day life on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, the second has probably received more serious consideration in scientific circles. For instance, back in 1884 a prize of 5,000 francs was offered for the best plan of calendar reform, the competition being under French supervision. First and second prizes were awarded for calendars of 4 quarters, each quarter consisting of three months of lengths 31, 30 and 30 days; as Professor Candy proposes.

The simplest proposal for reforming the calendar is that we take one day from each of the months, March, May and August, and add two days to February and one to April. Further, in leap years the extra day should not be added to February, which comes in the middle of a quarter, but to June. That is, in ordinary years, June would have 30 days, and in leap years 31 days. This simple adjustment would make the quar-