

SUMMARY

Persons who are interested in an immediate reform of the calendar might well confine their efforts to a readjustment of the lengths of the months. A few minor changes would make possible simplifications of benefit to every one.

Those making a study of perpetual calendars, expecting to eventually secure the adoption of one, should consider not only the "no-week" day, but also the "intercalary week."

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THE JONAS VILES, JR., MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE department of zoology of the University of Missouri is the recipient of a scholarship which is sufficiently unique to warrant formal record in *SCIENCE*. Jonas Viles, Jr., a member of the class of 1924 in arts and sciences in this institution, died on July 30, 1924, at the age of nineteen years, after suffering acutely for some weeks from a cancer of the lungs that had been earlier diagnosed as tuberculosis. He had served the department above mentioned as an undergraduate assistant since the middle of his junior year and was majoring there. In the season of 1923-24 he chose the general field of zoological science as his life work and was to have entered the Harvard Medical School in September, 1924, to prepare himself for teaching and investigation in one of the fundamental medical sciences. For the summer of 1924 he had been admitted to the course in invertebrate zoology at the Marine Biological Laboratory, where he was to have occupied one of the places for which the University of Missouri is a subscriber. He was looking forward to this work as the realization of a dream of long standing and as marking the beginning of many such summers. At the time of his death there was a life insurance of one thousand dollars and a substantial sum accumulated from his own earnings, which latter he had planned to spend for his first year of graduate work. During the last weeks of his life he talked constantly of his hopes for the summer and expressed the wish, as he began to sense the hopelessness of his condition, that he had enough to found a scholarship of several hundred dollars to enable students from Missouri to pursue such summer work as he had intended; for he understood the obstacle of traveling expenses that often proves an insurmountable barrier to students from the Middle West who wish to reach either coast.

Because of this desire, expressed by their son as something he wished to see accomplished, his parents, Professor and Mrs. Viles, are setting aside their son's accumulations, plus such other amount as may be

necessary to produce an annual income of \$100 as the above-mentioned scholarship. By the terms of the gift, this sum is to be used to defray the traveling and other personal expenses of an advanced student during summer work at a suitable institution. Because of the circumstances, the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, will receive special consideration, but the department is free to select another institution that may better suit the needs of the appointee for a given summer. It is not intended that the money derived from this scholarship shall be used to pay for a table or other fees commonly subscribed for by an institution, but rather to place a middle western student upon an equal footing with those for whom the cost of transportation is not a serious burden. The foundation will, we are sure, prove a great incentive in the zoological department at Missouri. It is unique in its origin and in the spirit which led to its establishment, representing as it does a gift to others of what a youth had hoped for himself but was not destined to realize. Jonas Viles, Jr., was a boy of fine intellectual endowment and high ideals, which, taken with his background of cultural training in the home and in the university, would have carried him far in his chosen profession. What would have doubtless proved a brilliant career has ended at its threshold, but he has provided others with the means for an induction into the work he would have made his own.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Arrowsmith. By SINCLAIR LEWIS. Harcourt Brace and Company.

IN *Arrowsmith* Lewis continues to blaze the trail in American literature. Here is a novel of the first rank with a scientist for its main character. This is significant in that it is an added bit of evidence of a certain shift in our civilization shown by the growing interest of the layman in scientific matters. With the coming of this interest, suspicion has given way to support. Some of this attitude is probably due to the discovery that Science will pay dividends, and some is due to the hospitality shown to the layman by Science. The High Priests have taken off their false whiskers and have given Mr. Average Citizen a peep at the ceremonies going on inside the Temples.

It required no small amount of courage on the part of Lewis to choose a scientist for his hero and to write of his work, clearly and intelligently, without yielding to the temptation to write down to the technical knowledge of a novel reading public. This