Tropical Disease Prevention Association for certain investigations into the cause of cancer, and it was unanimously resolved to confirm the recommendations of Sir William Leishman's committee to establish a journal of abstracts for the purpose of assisting and coordinating cancer research work throughout the world.

Nature states that in celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the King and Queen paid a visit to the observatory on July 23. They were received in the octagon room, the original observatory, by members of the Board of Admiralty and of the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, and were conducted over the buildings and shown the principal instruments. On the evening of the same day a conversazione was given by the president and council of the Royal Society to meet the delegates to the International Astronomical Union. On the following day an official luncheon was given, presided over by the First Lord of the Admiralty.

FOR the protection of birds and animals $60,000 has been left from the estate of Finley Barrett, of Lake Forest, Ill. Bequests of $25,000 each to the Izaak Walton League of America and the American Game Protective and Propagation Society were made and the Audubon Society of America is left $10,000.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE trustees of the University of Tennessee have approved the contract for the first of a series of buildings for the medical college to be erected in Memphis. This building, which will cost about $350,000, will be the first step in the expansion program of the medical school made possible by recent legislation, and will house the departments of anatomy, chemistry and physiology.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has given to the King Edward the Seventh College of Medicine, Singapore, $350,000 for the endowment of chairs of bacteriology and biochemistry on condition that the government founds an extra chair of biology and agrees to equip and maintain the three departments.

DR. HERBERT BRISTOL DWIGHT, of the Canadian Westinghouse Company, has been made professor of electrical engineering in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the same department Professor F. S. Dellenbaugh, Jr., has been promoted to an associate professorship, and Messrs. Bowles, Dahl and Lansil to assistant professorships.

AT the University of Colorado Dr. Aubrey J. Kemper, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed professor of mathematics and acting head of the department, succeeding Dr. Ira M. DeLong, who has been made professor emeritus after forty-seven years of service.

DR. IRVING H. BLAKE (Ph.D., Illinois), has been appointed associate professor of zoology, and Dr. Howard B. Stough (Ph.D., Harvard), assistant professor of zoology at the University of Idaho.

DR. E. G. MAHIN has resigned his position as professor of analytical chemistry and acting head of the department of chemistry in Purdue University, to become professor of analytical chemistry and metallurgy in the University of Nôtre Dame, the appointment to take effect at the opening of the college year in September.

DR. GEORGE M. CURTIS, formerly National Research Fellow in medicine, has been appointed associate professor of surgery at the University of Chicago and associate professor of experimental surgery under the Douglas Smith Foundation for Medical Research of the University of Chicago.

DR. NELSON W. TAYLOR, of the University of California, has been appointed assistant professor of physical chemistry at the University of Minnesota.

RALPH C. HARTSOUGH, of the department of physics of Columbia University, has been made professor of physics, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

DR. M. P. MOON, instructor in bacteriology at Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of medical bacteriology and preventive medicine, at the University of Missouri.

DR. G. M. SHRUM, research physicist at the University of Toronto, has been appointed assistant professor in physics at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

AT the University of London J. S. Huxley has been appointed to the university chair of zoology tenable at King's College, and Dr. L. Rodwell Jones to the university chair of geography tenable at the London School of Economics.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ETIOLOGY OF CANINE DISTEMPER

FOLLOWING the isolation of an organism from silver foxes which would reproduce the disease known as fox distemper,[1] a search was made for a similar

[1] Green, R. G., "Distemper in the silver fox (*Culpes vulpes*)," *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. and Med.*, XXII: 546–548.

organism as the cause of canine distemper. In collaboration with H. O. Halvorson, studies have been carried out on the experimental transmission of canine distemper through a series of dogs.

Infective material has yielded an organism belonging to the genus Salmonella, similar to that previously described as the cause of fox distemper. This organism, isolated from cases of canine distemper and injected into well, healthy dogs, produces the clinical picture of canine distemper and the organism may be subsequently obtained in pure culture.

While it is recognized that dogs may be subject to more than one infectious disease, it is believed that the organism isolated is of great importance as a primary cause of infectious disease in dogs which is usually described as distemper.

ROBERT G. GREEN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MEDICAL SCHOOL

THE NAME N IN COS NT

THE note by Arthur Taber Jones in SCIENCE for June 5 suggests that n in the expression $x = A \cos(nt-\varepsilon)$ be called the *π-frequency* of the motion. Since $nt-\varepsilon$ is an angle, the phase angle, and nt the time angle, n is an angular velocity. Its unit is one radian per second—at least, that is its most rational unit—and it is more commonly and more properly written ω than n. However it is written, angular velocity is the natural and, I should say, the proper name for it. n may be left to denote 1/T, properly called the frequency. It may be objected that the term angular velocity suggests circular motion, which, in this connection, it is desirable to avoid. But, as long as one is using the circular functions, the underlying circular motion may as well be recognized. I should say that the term *π-frequency* is unnecessary and that n in the expression cos nt is, in fact, angular velocity, and might as well be called angular velocity.

W. W. SLEATOR

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

IN a note appearing in SCIENCE for June 5, Professor Arthur Taber Jones has suggested the term "π-frequency" for the coefficient of time in the trigonometrical expression for simple harmonic motion. This quantity (most often denoted by ω) is commonly known to electrical engineers and text-book writers as "angular velocity." The term "velocity" in this connection has always appeared to me as a misnomer, particularly in alternating currents, where it does not correspond to any real motion. I agree with Professor Jones in the recognition that this quantity is truly of the nature of a frequency. However, I feel that the term "π-frequency" has a rather too academic flavor to be generally accepted. The term which I have used for this quantity for a number of years with my classes in electrical engineering is "angular frequency." This appears in a recently issued text-book.[1]

L. A. HAZELTINE

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HOBOKEN, N. J.

HONEY BEES FOLLOW WOOD BEES FOR NECTAR

E. A. SCHWARZ and the writer made observations May 2, 1925, showing that honey bees get nectar from long-tubed corollas of bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla florida*). They tried continually to go down the tube, only to stick long before reaching the nectar. Then they would buzz around big wood bees (*Xylocopa virginica*), who did not seek to enter corolla, but crawled down outside near the tip of the sepals and punctured the corolla tube with their strong black mouth parts. Honey bees frequently followed these bees and stuck their proboscis through the large slit made by wood bees. This is another instance of *Apis mellifera* adaptability to secure nectar from flowers with tubes longer than the tongue. A war of words has raged in bee journals for some years as to how honey bees could get nectar from red clover with florets longer than bee tongues. Is it possible that they follow some other insect to punctures in floret tubes already there?

A. C. BURRILL

STATE MUSEUM
JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

TOTEM POLES

To aid me in my compilation of information about totem poles, I should be glad to receive from those institutions and individuals who have not already sent me the materials, a full list of totem poles and house posts (not models) in their charge.

I desire the catalogue number of each specimen, the name and address of the person or museum owning it, its height, the location from which it came (including its position in the village and relation to other poles) and reference to catalogue numbers of photographs and motion pictures of it, as well as to illustrations of and literature about it.

A catalogue of photographs of these objects is also desired. While complete information is sought, any clue to obscure poles will be welcome, even to poles *in situ*.

HARLAN I. SMITH

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA,
OTTAWA, CANADA

[1] L. A. Hazeltine, "Electrical Engineering," page 166.