

mouth in defense. No individual, scientist or layman could play loosely with the open mouth of that snake.

A. H. WRIGHT

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ADDITIONAL evidence for the poisonous character of the coral snake has recently been given by the professor and students in the summer forestry school of the Louisiana State University at Bogalusa, Louisiana. To those of us who live in the territory of the coral snake it seems extremely important that the poisonous nature of this snake be emphasized whenever and wherever possible.

The article by E. R. Dunn, of Smith College, in *SCIENCE* for October 2, is thus further reinforced by the following facts:

A beginning student in the forestry school of the State University at Bogalusa, Louisiana, was bitten at eight o'clock in the morning by a snake which he believed to be non-poisonous. The professor in charge helped other students apply a tourniquet and sent the boy at once to the nearest hospital. The physician who looked at the wound treated it as one would any other, removed the tourniquet and sent the boy home. By three o'clock that afternoon the boy was feeling so ill that his family sent for the best physician available. The doctor saw that a slow paralysis was already setting in and ordered the boy to the hospital. But in spite of all that could be done the patient died before six the next morning. The wound was on the finger and though deep was certainly not of such a nature as to have produced death except from the venom. Subsequent comparison of the accounts of the onlookers (the snake unfortunately escaped) establishes as a practical certainty the identity of the snake as *Elaps*, our coral snake.

E. H. BEHRE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

NOMENCLATURE OF VITAMINES

FUNK's proposal in the matter of the nomenclature of the vitamins¹ proves the desirability of an international agreement.

The term D accepted by Funk for the designation of the yeast growth promoting factor is already used by others for the anti-rachitic factor.

This, however, is termed by Funk E; unfortunately, E is claimed by Barnett Sure to use instead of Ewan's and Bishop's substance X, or the reproduction factor, which in Funk's scheme is termed F!

E. C. VAN LEERSUM

DIRECTOR, NETHERLAND INSTITUTE OF
NUTRITION, AMSTERDAM

¹ *SCIENCE*, 62, 157, 1925.

QUOTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE

ONE section of the work of the League of Nations which received prolonged consideration at Geneva during the recent assembly is that known as intellectual cooperation. A year ago the assembly authorized the establishment in Paris of an International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, to be under the control of the league, but subsidized by the French government. The choice of Paris was criticized at the time because it suggested that France had some preeminence in culture, but ultimately the proposal secured something like unanimous approval. The institute has now been definitely constituted, and will be in full working order during the present year. The French government is supporting it at an estimated annual cost of two million French francs. The director is M. Julien Luchaire, inspector-general of public education in France and laureate of the French Academy. M. Luchaire a fortnight ago gave the delegates assembled at Geneva an account of what has been already done and what it is proposed to do. He said that the institute had been organized in seven sections—namely, general relations, university relations, bibliography and science, legal relations, literature, art and information. The chiefs appointed to these sections are, respectively, an Englishman, a Pole, a German, a Spaniard, a Chilean (a lady), a Belgian and an Italian. To the science section a very ambitious program is committed. In the first place, it will endeavor to organize an international analytical bibliography in all branches of science. So far as physics is concerned, a large number of reviews publish articles on this subject, and there are three reviews which prepare a fairly wide analytical bibliography, but hitherto these have competed uselessly with one another, while being individually incomplete. The Committee on Intellectual Cooperation has had a meeting with the directors of these three publications, and an agreement has been reached whereby, through a division of the work, physicists of all nationalities will have an opportunity of becoming fully and immediately informed of the immense production throughout the world in this branch of science. Another task before this section of the institute is to create a liaison between the libraries of all countries, particularly with a view to arranging specialized centers for the collection of scientific documents. A system for the international loan of books and the exchange of scientific publications is also to be brought into being. Investigations are to take place with a view to the set-