

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE has accepted a gift of \$300,000, the largest single trust fund ever received by the university for educational purposes, from Henry and William J. Wollman, of New York.

At the recent election in Louisville, the citizens voted about six to one to authorize the issue of \$1,000,000 in bonds for the University of Louisville, and \$5,000,000 for the public schools of that city.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY will receive \$20,100 by a bequest in the will of the late Charles Allen Munn, formerly editor and publisher of the *Scientific American*.

THE board of trustees of the University of Tennessee ratified on December 14 the expenditure of \$280,000 for the construction of the first unit in the \$1,000,000 program of expansion of the medical department of the university at Memphis.

DR. A. H. GIBSON, professor of engineering at the University of Manchester, has been elected dean of the faculty of science in the university.

DR. L. H. NEWMAN, formerly a fellow in medicine of the National Research Council under Professor Folin at the Harvard Medical School, has been appointed assistant professor of biochemistry at Howard University Medical School.

C. I. REED, former fellow in medicine of the National Research Council under Professor A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, has been appointed as associate professor of physiology at Baylor University.

DR. JOSEPH K. BREITENBECHER, formerly professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, has been appointed to the teaching staff of McGill University.

DR. MAX MØLLER, of the University of Copenhagen, has arrived in Bangkok, Siam, to take the post of visiting professor of chemistry at the Chulalongkorn University under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

PROFESSOR LOTHAR SCHRUTKA, of the Brünn Technical School, has been appointed professor of mathematics at the Technical School at Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SIMPLIFIED LITERATURE CITATIONS

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for November 6, 1925, Dean E. D. Merrill, of the University of California,

makes "an appeal for simplified literature citations." His appeal is based on substantial grounds as judged by current practice and it should meet with a cordial response from writers, editors and publishers.

In referring to the method of citing literature used by the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, however, it would have been fairer to that publication had he chosen a more recent issue to exemplify his point. Beginning with the issue of No. 1, Volume 28, April 5, 1924, the journal adopted its present simplified form of citations. Examination of that form will show that the simplifying process has been carried even further than Dean Merrill recommends.

Is there sufficient justification for the time-consuming process of verifying the exact number of each type of illustration? Innumerable difficulties arise when checking the plates, figures, maps, charts, diagrams and portraits, particularly in foreign publications. Why not use the present *Journal of Agricultural Research* style and simply state, "Illus.?" Or perhaps all reference to illustrations might well be omitted, as is now done in some publications.

Furthermore, so much difficulty was formerly encountered in bold-facing the volume number and having it appear correctly in type that the system was abandoned in favor of the much simpler method now used in the journal. Surely it is unnecessary to go to the trouble of bold-facing the volume number, if this form is used. No confusion is caused by this method and simplicity favors it.

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ODDLY enough, on the same day that the writer read the letter, "An appeal for simplified literature citations" by E. D. Merrill in *SCIENCE* for November 6, he had already encountered similar difficulties, and had even thought of writing something on the subject.

Such difficulties, small in themselves, but typical of many experiences, will serve to emphasize the need of a uniform, and in some cases, more convenient form of citing references.

It is a regulation of this institute that references shall be presented in the same form as used in *Chemical Abstracts*. In consulting an English publication, and quoting a paper that included a bibliography, the question at once arose as to whether the references were in the proper form. The translation of one style to another should certainly not be necessary, nor should the question ever arise to change one's train of thought, for the loss is not merely the few seconds or minutes required in comparing each refer-

ence, but the time wasted in picking up the thread and resuming work.

By way of suggestion, the form used in print should be reproducible in handwriting or on the typewriter without confusion. The system of citations employed by *Chemical Abstracts* is probably the most carefully worked out of any in use, and is rapidly becoming recognized as a model. It employs bold-faced figures for volume numbers, which are preferable to either Roman numerals or ordinary figures. For example:

J. Am. Chem. Soc. 47, 1445-7 (1925).

In manuscripts for printing, bold-faced type is indicated by underlining with a wavy line. Since the typewriter has no such character, editors understand what is meant if volume numbers are underlined. If there is danger of confusing the volume and page numbers the same thing can be done in handwriting. Setting off the year in parentheses avoids any danger of confusing it with page numbers.

It is to be hoped that enough interest will be manifested in this present rather aggravating situation to result in a uniform international system.

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DEAN E. D. MERRILL'S recent appeal in *SCIENCE* for "simplified literature citations" merits consideration, and there will doubtless be general approval of the purpose he has in mind. However, there is something to be said, at least for abstract journals and other publications dealing mainly with current literature, in using in citations the periodical number in addition to the other data. Its inclusion takes some space and adds to the complexity of the title, but librarians and others seem to regard it as very valuable and helpful. It is a particular convenience in handling references in current or unbound periodicals, and while not indispensable, the thirty-five years' experience with *Experiment Station Record* indicates that it is well worth the space it occupies. Facility and accuracy in the handling of references are surely relevant considerations in making citations, and their promotion may be as desirable as an extreme of brevity.

HOWARD LAWTON KNIGHT

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IS THE AUTOMOBILE EXTERMINATING THE WOODPECKER?

So frequently had I seen the dead bodies of the red-headed woodpecker along the highways that re-

cently when starting out on a drive of some 220 miles I decided to make a careful count of all the birds of this species both dead and alive that were to be seen along the road. Leaving Iowa City the second day of August I drove through a section of Iowa where the red-headed woodpeckers are probably more numerous than in any other part of their range. During the first part of this trip no dead woodpeckers were seen, while over 100 live birds were recorded. On the last 120 miles of the trip, however, twenty-one dead woodpeckers were observed as well as eighty-two that were alive.

Excepting in cases where the woodpeckers were too badly mangled, an examination of the crops and stomachs was made. As a result of this examination I found that without exception they contained such food as bread crumbs, sweet corn, bits of doughnuts and pieces of apple. The stomach contents would seem to indicate that these birds are in part attracted to the street by waste from the lunch baskets of passing tourists and by chance garbage that has been carelessly thrown into the street. This would suggest to those who would save the woodpecker the desirability of not throwing any lunch or other food along the right-of-way.

The red-head is a fearless bird. He will remain in the path of an approaching car until it is close upon him. Then the clumsiness of his feet that were intended for clinging to the side of a tree prevent him from making the quick get-a-way that saves the lives of many of the other species of birds that feed in similar manner. Moreover, the telephone and telegraph poles along the way, affording as they do excellent perching and nesting places, no doubt attract the woodpeckers to the highway.

I believe that the reason that no dead woodpeckers were found on the first one hundred miles of the trip, although one hundred live birds were seen, is due to the fact that much of this part of the road was a detour and so not extensively used by tourists. This would eliminate the waste from lunches, and so offer no inducement to the birds to go into the street.

Four weeks later on my return trip over the same road I found comparatively few woodpeckers, noting only twelve live birds and five dead ones. The scarcity of woodpeckers at this time may be accounted for by the fact that these birds, changing their diets as they do with the seasons, are much more likely to be found in the hardwood groves than in the open during the month of September.

One can not tell with any surety whether the dead birds seen on the highway were killed on one day or on three days. Neither can one say that because