DR. G. V. ANREP has been appointed to a readership in physiology at the University of London, tenable at University College.

AT the University of Pisa, the office of rector has passed from the hands of Professor D'Acchiardi to Professor Vittorio Aducco, director of the Institute of Physiology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE LIFE HISTORY OF A FAKE!

JUST twenty-three years ago there occurred at this place an episode which may be taken as a typical example of the persistence of error, even in spite of pains to correct it. This is brought vividly to my attention by a letter just received, asking for information concerning the occurrence in Onondaga Lake of marine squids, citing a reference to it in Price's "The New Geology" where (page 584) the following statement occurs: "Lake Onondaga, once a part of Lake Ontario, contains marine squids." And this is but one of a number of such inquiries within recent years. It seems well, therefore, in the interest of scientific verity, to submit a brief review of this case, hoping to contribute thereby toward an end of an unfortunate error.

At that time a specimen was brought to me which was reported to have been captured in this lake. Fortunately, I had at command specimens of this animal which were used in the biology laboratory, and placing one before the reporter, asked him to compare his own specimen with it. "As you will see, these specimens are very closely alike, but mine came from the sea coast of Massachusetts. They are never found in fresh waters or in lakes such as Onondaga." He was not satisfied, however, with my version, so consulted Principal John Wilson, of Syracuse, a geologist whom I knew well and esteemed highly, and told him the same story as to me. Knowing well the geology of the salt deposits which were located in this section, Mr. Wilson was at once interested in the matter and promised to investigate it. The reporter was too eager, however, to get a good story, so did not wait for investigation, and in consequence, the city papers contained marvelous announcements of a great find of marine animals in Onondaga Lake!

Mr. Wilson also reported the case to Dr. J. M. Clarke, state geologist, giving him such accounts as he had been able to glean. Clarke immediately reported the matter to SCIENCE, where it appeared December 12, 1902, page 947. The present writer immediately communicated with Dr. Clarke touching the matter and assured him that the case was entirely too "fishy" to warrant the publicity which he had given to it and called his attention to the fact that the implications that these specimens were taken alive were unfounded and giving facts which strongly discounted that view. Attention was called to the place and time where the specimens were found, to the statements of Mr. Wilson that the restaurant at the iron pier at this season served as a specialty baked clams, chowder, raw and cooked oysters, etc., continuously. It was well known that these supplies were obtained from the sea coast, packed in barrels, the specimens covered with masses of seaweed which supplied moisture during the shipment to Syracuse. It was also noted that the débris from these shellfish was dumped into the lake. The writer thinks it highly probable that in this packing stuff and débris which went into the lake were perhaps incidentally these vagrant specimens of squids.

Clarke later sent a specimen for critical investigation and report to Dr. A. E. Ortmann, of Princeton University, a curator of invertebrate paleontology. His investigations and conclusions were reported in SCIENCE for January 2, 1903 (page 30), in which he states that the specimen proves to belong to the well-known species of our northeastern Atlantic coast; "the cold water, or short-finned squid. The specimen has been compared with the description given by Verrill, and with the well-preserved specimens (male and female) of this species from Provincetown, Massachusetts, preserved in the collection of the Museum of Biology, Princeton University." Therefore he arrived at the conclusion that "the present individual is in no wise different from *Illex illecibrosus* of our northeastern coast, a species abundant from Cape Cod to Newfoundland."

Concerning the matter of the species living in Onondaga Lake, Ortmann says:

> I am loth to believe that the species lives in the lake. In this connection I venture only one suggestion; this squid is largely used for bait, and the capture of squids forms a regular trade on our northeastern coast. Could it not be possible that somebody secured by purchase a barrel of squid to be used for bait in this locality where our specimen was found?

To conclude: So far as the present writer is aware, this error gained currency chiefly through geologic channels; first, in the hasty and misleading announcements of the state geologist, whose experience and official station should have prompted caution. Second, Pierson and Schuchert's "Text-book of Geology," 1915, page 493, and in a later edition (1920), page 493, under the heading "Relic Seas and Lakes," states "Squids are still present, though rarely, in Lake Onondaga, once a tributary of Lake Ontario." In Lull's "Organic Evolution," 1917, page 79, the case is cited apparently from these sources. The citation by Price (above) is probably from this source

also. Why Clarke's note of the case should have been given wide currency, while the clear and convincing report of the case by Ortmann was overlooked or disregarded, is the amazing aspect of this very crude "fake." Is it possible that the present exposé, twenty-three years afterward, may be more effectual? Surely its life history has been extreme!

CHAS. W. HARGITT

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

THE S. T. DARLING MEMORIAL PRIZE

THE news of the tragic death of Dr. S. T. Darling, the eminent American malariologist, is fresh in the minds of many of your readers. It will be recalled that the fatal motor accident resulting in his death and that of two other members of the party occurred in Syria, in May, 1925, where Dr. Darling, as a member of the malaria commission of the Health Organization of the League of Nations, was studying local malaria conditions.

The health committee of the League of Nations during its last session adopted the following resolution which has since received the approbation of the council of the league:

> The Health Committee, wishing to honour and perpetuate the memory of Dr. Darling, decides to collect by private subscription a capital fund, the interest on which will be expended on a prize to be awarded periodically. This will be known as "The Darling Prize."
>
> The prize (a medal or other award) will be awarded by the malaria commission of the League of Nations to the scientist who, in its opinion, has carried out recent distinguished research work on a subject connected with malaria which comes within the general scope of the commission's investigations.

Should any of your readers desire to be associated with this attempt of the Health Organization of the League of Nations to honor the memory of a distinguished American colleague by subscribing to the fund, I would ask that their contributions be sent to the director of the Health Section, League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contributions will be acknowledged individually and all subscribers will be given, in due course, full information as to the regulations governing the periodic award of the prize and the administration of the funds.

TH. MADSEN,
President of the Health Committee.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS FOR THE TYPEWRITER

IN the discussion on simplified literature citations in the issue of SCIENCE for January 15, Mr. Charles F. Goldthwait, of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburgh, says:

> 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.

I had so much difficulty along this same line that I had made for my typewriting machine a special character—a wavy underscorer which, when the machine is run back and this character is used to underline the letters or figures wanted in blackface, gives a continuous wavy line which the printer readily understands.

I also have a special character with two parallel lines which will underscore the words desired in small caps. When this is used with the regular underscorer, it gives me the three lines required to indicate capitals.

Also, I had my machine equipped with brackets as well as parentheses.

I had this done over ten years ago when I was an editor-in-chief on the late John Hill's group of engineering weeklies, and at that time and in all the years since I have found these special characters among the handiest on my machine, enabling me to turn out clean and properly marked copy.

EDWARD PIERCE HULSE

DISTRIBUTION OF HYMENOPHYSA PUBESCENS

IN the issue of SCIENCE for December 4, 1925, Paul C. Standley reported the finding of *Hymenophysa pubescens* in the United States. He stated that this plant was new to the United States and the American herbaria lacked specimens. I wish to correct this error by calling your attention to my finding of this plant at Ypsilanti, Michigan, in 1919. It was identifed by Harold St. John, formerly at Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Specimens are to be found in the following herbaria: Gray, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Parke, Davis and Company, Detroit, Michigan; Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, and many others in the United States.

B. A. WALPOLE

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE

QUOTATIONS

A BRITISH SCIENCE NEWS SERVICE[1]

UNDER the auspices of the British Association and the British Science Guild, a conference was recently

[1] From *Nature*.