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*.

held to consider the advisability of establishing a science news service in Great Britain, and after discussion a small committee was appointed to carry the matter further. For some time such a service has existed in the United States, and the success achieved in that country encourages the belief that there is room in British newspapers also for accurate information on scientific subjects, narrated in such a manner as to be interesting to the average educated but unscientific reader. Matter which is suitable for the American reader is not necessarily suitable for the British: each nation has its own idiom and its characteristic outlook. But what American science can do for America, British science should be able to do, in its own appropriate way, for Britain. Already the *Morning Post* and one or two other British papers make a feature of admirable reports on scientific subjects, while a few specially gifted men of science are doing excellent work by furnishing the press with informative articles: but apart from these exceptional cases it is a commonplace that the great majority of newspapers fail to distinguish between science and magic in anything but name, that the space they allot to science, as distinct from sensational charlatanism, is negligible, and that such paragraphs as they do devote to scientific topics are for the most part meaningless and in many cases untrue. The sporadic efforts of a few gifted journalists are not adequate to meet the situation. What is needed is a systematic supply of news the accuracy of which shall be guaranteed by recognized scientific organizations, while its form renders it easily digestible by at least the better educated newspaper readers.

* * * * *

The committee which has been formed will be confronted with a number of difficult problems, which will have to be solved before success can be achieved. Perhaps one of the most difficult will be that of guarding the news against mutilation by unscientific sub-editors. On the other hand, there is little to be feared from the alleged hostility of the pioneer journalists who are already in the field. It is to the interest of all concerned to cooperate in creating an increased demand for science news, and it is therefore reasonable to hope that the parties in the case will agree to pool their assets, which are, on one side, experience and an established reputation, on the other, the prestige of scientific authority.

Without the willing assistance of scientific workers and institutions, no organization for the preparation and distribution of science news can possibly be successful, and even with it, there is little hope that the agency would be self-supporting for several years. As regards finance, it may be mentioned that the American service pays for itself to the extent of about 60 per cent. of its expenses, the remaining 40 per cent. being provided by endowment. It has been estimated that a British service, selling news at standard rates, would need an endowment of at least £5,000 to ensure its being able to run for three years, at the end of which time it should be possible to decide whether the support secured was sufficient to justify the continuance of the service. One of the questions before the committee which has been set up is that of the possibility of raising this sum by contributions from public-spirited donors or other sources. It is unnecessary to discuss here the contrivance of machinery for obtaining and supplying news, but on the assumption that this and the other tasks confronting the committee can be successfully carried out, the scheme in its broad outline is one which must commend itself to every man of science who appreciates the significance of the discipline with which he is associated.

C. W. H.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Astronomical Physics. By F. J. M. STRATTON. New York, E. P. Dutton and Company.

WHILE "Astronomical Physics," by F. J. M. Stratton, can not be recommended for light reading to one unversed in the background and general principles underlying the subject of astrophysics, in it every student in this and related fields will find much in the way of information and considerably more in the way of inspiration. It distinctly fills a long-felt need in its field.

The treatise is advertised as "a condensed account of modern views of the physical conditions that obtain in the stars." Especial emphasis should be placed upon "condensed" and "modern." In his attempt to present the subject in but 181 pages of text, the author was forced to limit his descriptions of early work, instruments and methods of attack to bare statements, and to present much of the modern work in little more than outline form. In all parts of the book, however, copious references to sources of information are given and the student who consults the articles cited should obtain a comprehensive insight into the present state of our knowledge of the subject.

The subject-matter is up to date, in so far as present-day rapid developments in the study of stellar physics permit. Successive chapters are devoted to the more productive instruments, to the laboratory investigations leading up most effectively to the interpretation of stellar conditions, to the sun, solar system, stellar radiation, radial velocities, stellar classification, giant and dwarf stars, nebulae, novae,