

gonad to the haploid condition and the further course of spermatogenesis then parallels that of the true males quite closely. A detailed investigation of the conditions here involved is under way.

Breeding experiments have shown further that males may arise from isolated hermaphrodites as well as from those which have been fertilized by true males. From twenty-five broods produced by hermaphrodites which had mated with true males, thirty-nine males and 2,548 hermaphrodites resulted. From sixteen broods produced by hermaphrodites which were self-fertilized only, five males and 1,839 hermaphrodites resulted. These data are exclusive of the aberrant male-producing line mentioned above—an isolated hermaphrodite which gave rise to 117 males and sixteen hermaphrodites. The males are exactly alike in general morphology and cytology whether their origin be from cross or self-fertilized hermaphrodites. Since all the eggs of the hermaphroditic ovary seem to undergo reduction it seems probable that the haploid males result from the occasional development of unfertilized eggs. Accordingly it would appear that the male is not necessary for the production of either male or hermaphrodite, although it may occasionally function in the latter case.

S. HUGHES-SCHRADER

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

#### THE NOMENCLATURE OF ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

ALTHOUGH most of us are opposed to the introduction of foreign words and phrases into the language of science we frequently find ourselves resorting to such where no exact English equivalent exists. The writer has often wondered why American and English chemists have not availed themselves of the convenient French terms "function" and "functional grouping." Mr. W. T. Brauholtz, in his translation of Professor Moureu's excellent book, "The Fundamental Principles of Organic Chemistry," has done this and used the word "function" in place of "group," "radical," "linkage," etc. It would seem to be much simpler to say "ethene function," "carbonyl function," "carboxyl function" and "chlorine function," instead of "ethylene linkage," "carbonyl group," "carboxyl radical," etc., especially since we do not ordinarily speak of the "chlorine radical."

Since the word function itself suggests the chemical behavior of an element or group, it is recommended. It is convenient to speak of "functions containing nitrogen," of "functions containing sulphur," etc. On the whole, the proposed term seems to offer some advantages over the three or four words now used in our text-books.

PAUL M. DEAN

BOULDER, COLORADO

#### DOMESTIC CATS FOR DISSECTION

THOSE who teach comparative anatomy in colleges located in small towns, and sometimes in colleges located in larger cities, will appreciate the difficulties of securing enough cats for large classes. The difficulty became so great in Morgantown, a few years ago, that it became necessary to use rats in place of cats. Any one who has been forced to use the rat for dissection in place of the cat will appreciate the great inferiority of the smaller animal, even with the excellent outline by H. R. Hunt that has recently been published by Macmillan.

We have for the last few years secured all the cats we needed by the following means: Besides taking all cats sent to the laboratory at any time, advertisements to the effect that the department will pay fifty cents each and express charges for live, adult cats are inserted in various papers and bulletins sent to the farmers of the state. Names and addresses of those (boys on the farms, chiefly) sending in cats are kept and at the beginning of the "open season" on cats a circular letter is sent to each of those on the list.

This method not only brings in the cats, whereby the destruction of birds is incidentally reduced, but it saves the trouble that is often caused by local advertising for cats which stimulates the small boy and often the college student to the theft of the pet cats of one's neighbors.

A. M. REESE

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

#### THE PROPOSED RANSOM MEMORIAL

A PROGRESS report on the B. H. Ransom memorial fund shows the interest that is being expressed in the proposition not only by Dr. Ransom's fellow countrymen but by parasitologists in numerous foreign countries where he was held in high regard. The fund has now reached the sum of \$622; of this amount \$121 has come from foreign countries. The latest contributions to be received from abroad are from the small country of Roumania, a prominent parasitologist of Bucharest sending his personal contribution and those of the Minister of Agriculture and the members of the laboratory of parasitology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, these making a total of \$20.48. A Japanese parasitologist has pledged \$25 to the fund while others in Germany, France, Denmark, China, India and Canada have sent \$10 or more in each case. Other countries represented are England, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden and Italy, making a total of thirteen foreign countries.

A large majority of both foreign and American subscribers have voted that the memorial take the form of a money prize or a scholarship in parasitology. Since the fund is still inadequate for either