

practically unknown to any scientific man before May, although the artificial appearance of the clearing in the pines had been recognized as the site of a settlement from the time that Flagstaff was settled by white people."

If the author would refer to the *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association*, (1918) volume V, number 4, he would find on page 115 the ruin described as pueblo 142 and figured on plate X, figure 1. In a manuscript of an intensive survey of the ruins of the San Francisco Mountain region which has been in the hands of the Bureau of Ethnology for the past year and a half awaiting publication, this ruin is again described, furnished with a measured plan and given a name. Indeed, Dr. Fewkes undertook the excavation of the ruin at the suggestion of the writer and used the measured plan referred to above in the early part of his excavations.

Dr. Fewkes says further, "The name 'Elden Pueblo' was given to the ruin by the author on account of its neighborhood to Elden Mesa. . . ." The name "Elden Pueblo" is ill-advised because in the manuscript of the survey referred to above, which is in the hands of Dr. Fewkes, a pueblo ruin west of Elden spring is called the *Elden Pueblo* and appropriately so because this pueblo is on the very flanks of Elden Mountain, while Fewkes's "Elden Pueblo" lies nearly a mile away, and a quarter of a mile from the conspicuous crater of Sheep Hill. Therefore, the writer of the survey has called Fewkes's ruin the *Sheep Hill Pueblo*. In the *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association*, referred to above, a third site is called the *Elden Spring Pueblo*. Surely it is confusing to the literature to give another pueblo the name of Elden.

HAROLD S. COLTON

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

### PRESBYOPIC VISION AS AN INDEX OF LONGEVITY

THE article on "Age of Presbyopic Vision as an Index of the Longevity of Primitive Man," in *SCIENCE* of October 29, seems to me to have overlooked one vital point. Any character to be of survival value, either positive or negative, must appear before the close of the reproductive period. Presbyopia appears after the reproductive period is practically past, hence can not affect the next generation. What occurs to parents after their offspring are independent of them has no effect on the survival of the race. This is illustrated by many animals that die in producing their young, as is the case with the salmon.

It would seem more logical to connect the age at which presbyopia appears with the end of the reproductive period. Any family in which it appeared

before the offspring were independent would be at a disadvantage and would tend to be eliminated. Thus natural selection has prevented presbyopia appearing before the middle forties. Whatever theory may be correct, it is a fact that these two events occur at practically the same time.

C. J. ELMORE

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE,  
LIBERTY, MISSOURI

### SIMPLIFIED SPELLING

WHY not take the obvious additional step to that proposed by Maynard M. Metcalf for "A Simplified Indication for the Consonant Sound Represented by the Letters TH" (*SCIENCE*, 1670, page 650) and drop the *u* that invariably follows *q* in English!

A. H. BABCOCK

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Astronomy*. By RUSSELL, DUGAN and STEWART. Vol. 1—The Solar System. (470 + xxi.) Ginn and Co.

THIS work is sub-titled "A Revision of Young's Manual of Astronomy." Young's text-books on astronomy were about as near perfection as they could be at the time they were written. His "Manual" is extremely well adapted for a first, general college course, and his "General Astronomy" is as admirable for the student starting on the more serious study of the subject. All that was needed for the present time was a revision of his works to bring them up to date, to give an account of the more recent advances in the science. This the authors, the successors of Professor Young at Princeton University, have undertaken.

The revision of the "Manual" has resulted in a more extensive work than the original, so that we have before us a text, as the authors state, "intermediate between this and the 'General Astronomy.'" They further state that "extensive changes have been required by the progress of the science; the book has been practically rewritten and inevitably increased in length." On account of the increase in length the work is now issued in two volumes. I have been informed that the second volume is in press. The first has just appeared.

The division of the work into two volumes is advantageous for two reasons: first, in that the subject-matter of the first volume is of the more stable sort and will not need revision for many years; and the subject-matter that is in the most rapid state of flux is to be in the second volume, so that the work can be kept up to date by fairly frequent revisions of the second volume only; second, the division fits admir-