other members of which have any vestige of a spinous dorsal fin. It seems certain that this family will have to receive reallocation.

American zoologists who may desire to examine this astounding little fish will be gladly supplied with specimens on request.

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CRITICAL POTENTIAL MEASUREMENTS

IN your issue of Dec. 11, 1926, there appeared an article by Dr. George Glockler on "Critical Potential Measurements: A Correction for High Emission Currents." The author notes that when the emission current becomes appreciable one must no longer consider the resistance of the tube to the infinite. He suggests that the p.d. between anode and cathode as calculated by a potentiometer scheme be corrected for this condition. I would like to suggest that there is nothing original in this suggestion. The tube simply acts as a shunt across a section of the potentiometer resistance and the calculations are carried out in precisely the same manner as for any shunted instrument.

I might add that I have used this correction factor for the last five years in measurements on vacuum tube characteristics. However, I have never regarded the matter as an original procedure.

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"DATA IS" OR "DATA ARE": WHICH?

IT is far from my desire to be unduly critical in regard to the use of scientific terms, but I have long hoped that some one would call attention to the incorrect use of the word "data" now too prevalent.

"Memorandum" and "memoranda," words seldom seen or heard now-a-days, seem to have been comprehended readily and honored by correct use almost invariably: why not "datum" and "data"? Yet in about one scientific article in six, often in those sponsored by institutions of the highest reputation, there will be found the careless, ignorant or indifferent use of these words. Sometimes the blame may be laid to inadequate editing, often where we least expect it; but primarily it is the fault of authors—even though their names are followed by a generous share of the alphabet, indicating that much time has been spent in scientific circles, and correctness should be expected. In the interest of scientific precision and to maintain proper standards it is time to call a halt on this unfortunate practice.

Probably the expressions "this men is" and "much children does" would grate even upon the sensibilities (at least, let us hope so!) of those who make use of "this data indicates," "much data has," etc.

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THE INDICATION OF QUOTATIONS

MR. S. M. NEWHALL has recently[1] called attention to the need for a pair of equivalents, in oral speech, for the unwieldy phrases "quotation begun; . . . quotation closed."

May I suggest that we find in ordinary telegraphic language many instances of the reduction of such cumbersome expressions to others more concise, graphic, and effective?

In this case the usual rendering is "quote . . . unquote."

JOHN W. ARNOLD

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Coffee. By RALPH H. CHENEY, New York University. Pp. 244, 77 plates. The New York University Press, 1925.

THIS book is a very unusual combination of scientific research and practical information. It is a curious fact that coffee, one of the most familiar and important plants, has never before been adequately investigated. Cheney has certainly filled this gap in our knowledge in a most complete way, so that everything known about coffee is now on record.

Part I contains the scientific presentation of the botany of coffee. Its four chapters give in detail taxonomic descriptions of the nineteen known economic species. Associated with these scientific descriptions, much interesting information is given as to the native names, the history and the uses of coffee. The bibliographical references are remarkably complete, so that the whole literature of the subject is available.

Part II consists of an economic discussion of coffee. The story of the indigenous distribution of the economic species and the principal countries where they are now grown is most interesting. All these data are given with a wealth of detail that is surprising. A full description is also given of the preparation of the coffee-bean, the plantation treatment and the treatment by wholesale distributors. A very interesting chapter describes commercial sophistication and substitution, giving the botanical sources of coffee-substitutes and adulterants and also the methods of

[1] SCIENCE, LXIV, 427.