biology or agriculture will be eligible candidates. Appointees are expected to register in the graduate department at the University of Virginia and to take work leading towards a higher degree.

ANTICIPATING the federal quarantine against the importation of nursery stocks which becomes effective in 1930, the New York Legislature has appropriated $18,850 for comprehensive investigations on nursery stock production at the State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. Part of the appropriation is made immediately available in order that work on the project may begin at once. H. B. Tukey, for several years in charge of the horticultural investigations of the Geneva Station in the Hudson River Valley, has been designated to take over the nursery work at Geneva and will enter upon his new duties at an early date.

THE U. S. National Museum has recently received the collection of Lepidoptera, made some years ago by Mr. Henry F. Schoenborn, of Washington, D. C. Mr. Schoenborn was born in Suhl, Thuringia, Germany, in 1833, and died in Washington in 1896. He was one of the early amateur entomologists of Washington. The collection includes to a large extent the local fauna with the addition of a considerable series from Europe, all well mounted and in fine condition. The gift is a donation of the surviving daughter and son, Miss Theresa F., and William E., Schoenborn.

ATTEMPTS to break the will of the late R. J. McDonald, who left a bequest of $1,125,000 to the University of Texas, have been unsuccessful. The money is to be used for the construction and equipment of an astronomical observatory, plans for which are in charge of Dr. H. Y. Benedict, dean of the college of arts and sciences.

AN allotment of $130,000 has been made the University of Oregon Medical School by the General Education Board. This fund is to be used for traveling expenses, the improvement of equipment, additional salaries and volumes for the school library and such expenditures as are not provided for by the state legislature.

AN appropriation of $60,000 has been made by the State of Montana for the establishment of a new entomological laboratory to be located at Hamilton. Approximately $25,000 per year has also been appropriated to carry on research on Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY will receive $15,000 under the will of the late Dr. Henry Koplik, specialist in children's diseases, to be used for the establishment of a scholarship for the study of children's diseases.

ACCORDING to a cable to the New York *Times*, Edmond de Rothschild has donated 30,000,000 francs to be used in establishing a French foundation patterned after the Rockefeller Foundation in America. It will be known as the Institute of Physico-Chemical Biology. Four well-known scientists will form the first board of directors. They are Jean Perrin, winner of the Nobel Prize for physics, Professor Job, of the Sorbonne, Professor Mayer, of the College of France, and Pierre Girard, director of the School of Higher Studies at the Sorbonne.

THE Army Medical Department has been notified that the gold medal of the international committee of the Red Cross had been awarded to it in the competition of "wound cards" recently held at Geneva in connection with the meeting of the International Standardization Committee.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

CORNERSTONES for two new scientific buildings to cost $2,000,000, an engineering building and a chemical laboratory, were laid at Princeton University on May 12.

AN additional gift of $250,000 to the University of Chicago for building the George Herbert Jones laboratory of chemistry has been made by Mr. Jones. This brings Mr. Jones's total gift to $665,000, the sum of $415,000 having been given by him last December.

THE Scott bill providing a total appropriation of $4,234,500, including one million dollars for new buildings and plant repairs for the Pennsylvania State College, was given approval by the state legislature in the closing days of its session. The funds provided in the bill, in addition to the building item, include $2,181,000 for general college maintenance, $403,500 for agricultural research and $650,000 for agricultural and home economics extension.

THE establishment of the William Allan Neilson chair of research at Smith College is the gift of friends and admirers of Dr. Neilson in honor of the tenth year of his presidency. The chair will be held five years by Professor Kurt Koffka, of the University of Giessen, who is at present visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin.

DR. JOHN BOWLER has been elected dean of the Dartmouth Medical School.

DR. HOMER L. DODGE, head of the department of physics of the University of Oklahoma, has been appointed dean of the graduate school, succeeding Dr. A. H. Van Vleet, who was dean from 1909 until his death in 1925.

DR. EDWARD S. ROBINSON, of the department of psychology at the University of Chicago, has been appointed professor of psychology at Yale University.

DR. J. M. D. OLMSTED, assistant professor of physiology at the University of Toronto, has been appointed associate professor of physiology at the University of California.

DR. GEORGE H. KIRBY, director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute and professor of clinical medicine in the department of psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College, has been appointed professor of psychiatry at Columbia University. Dr. Kirby sailed for Europe on April 23 to visit neuropsychiatric clinics and hospitals.

DR. VIRGIL H. MOON, head of the department of pathology in the Indiana University School of Medicine, has been appointed head of the department of pathology at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and will assume his duties in June.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

HUMIDITY AND CHRONOMETRY

MANY of those interested in well-regulated timepieces have doubtless noticed the tendency of watches to run fast in winter and slow in summer. This variation is in the direction to be expected from incomplete temperature compensation, but most watches are kept nearly as warm in winter as in summer. The indoor humidities however vary from about 30 to 80 per cent. from winter to summer. Being interested in adsorbed films it occurred to me to investigate the effect of varying humidities on the amounts of water adsorbed by metals in relation to watch rates.

Through the courtesy of Mr. George P. Luckey, of the Hamilton Watch Company, a dozen balance wheels were obtained for test. These weighed 5.13035 grams after exposure to a saturated atmosphere, 5.1302 at 40 per cent. humidity, 5.1300 at 5 per cent. humidity and 5.1291 grams with the moisture completely removed. The total surface exposed was approximately 8 sq. cm, hence the moisture was adsorbed to a depth of 1.6 microns or about 4,000 molecular diameters. The relative change in mass was as 1 : 1.00025 for all the adsorbed water and about a tenth as much for the range of indoor humidities ordinarily met with.

A gravity pendulum is of course not affected by such variations in mass since force and mass vary in the same proportion. But in watches and chronometers, the force applied by the activating spring is independent of the mass moved and a variation in that mass produces a first order effect on the rate. Since $(t_1/t_2)^2 = I_1/I_2 = m_1/m_2$, a change in rate of 1 second per day would be produced by a change in mass from 1 to 1.000023. Removal of all the adsorbed moisture from the balance wheel of a watch or ship chronometer would therefore cause it to gain about 10 seconds per day. Variations in humidity from 30 to 80 per cent., other things being equal, would cause changes in rate of 20 to 30 seconds per month. The rating of a ship chronometer in a dry winter land laboratory could not hold for protracted humid conditions.

Since the adsorbed moisture layer decreases rapidly in thickness with rise of temperature, thermal expansion and moisture adsorption tend to compensate each other in chronometers. Control of humidity within the case should not be difficult. The adsorption of the vapors of lubricating oils is relatively much less and this too could be brought under control if necessary.

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SIXTY-ONE NAMES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES

THE secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has the honor to invite attention of the zoological profession to the fact that the following 61 generic names (with genotypes in parentheses) are under consideration for insertion in the Official List of Generic Names.

Announcement of final vote will be delayed until about April 1, 1928, in order to give persons interested in these names opportunity to express their opinions.

PROTOZOA: *Bursaria* (*truncatella*), *Eimeria* (*falciformis*), *Laverania* (*malariae* so. *falcipara*), *Plasmodium* (*malariae*), *Sarcocystis* (*miescheri*).

CESTODA: *Ligula* (*avium*).

NEMATODA: *Filaria* (*martis*), *Heterodera* (*schachtii*), *Rhabditis* (*terricola*), *Strongylus* (*equi* = *equinum*), *Syngamus* (*trachealis* so. *trachea*).

OLIGOCHAETA: *Enchytraeus* (*albidus*).

HIRUDINEA: *Haemadipsa* (*zeylanica*), *Limnatis* (*nilotica*).

CRUSTACEA: *Armadillidium* (*vulgare* so. *armadillo*), *Astacus* (*astacus*), *Cancer* (*pagurus*), *Daphne* (*pulex*), *Diaptomus* (*castor*), *Gammarus* (*pulex*), *Homarus* (*gammarus* = *marinus*), *Nephrops* (*norvegicus*), *Oniscus* (*asellus*), *Pandalus* (*annulicornis*), *Penaeus* (*monodon*), *Porcellio* (*scaber*).

XIPHOSURA: *Limulus* (*polephemus*).

SCORPIONIDEA: *Scorpio* (*europaeus*).

ARANEAE seu ARANEIDA: *Avicularia* (*avicularia*), *Dendryphantes* (*hastatus*), *Dysdera* (*punctoria*), *Latrodectus* (13-*guttatus*), *Segestria* (*florentina*).

ACARINA: *Cheyletus* (*eruditus*), *Chorioptes* (*ca-*