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.

P. G. NUTTING

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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-*

prae), *Demodex* (*folliculorum*), *Dermanyssus* (*gallinae*), *Glyciphagus* (*domesticus*), *Polydesmus* (*complanatus*), *Psoroptes* (*equi*), *Rhizoglyphus* (*robini*), *Trombidium* (*holosericeum*).

THYSANURA: *Lepisma* (*saccarhina*), *Podura* (*plumbea*).

ORTHOPTERA: *Blatta* (*orientalis*), *Ectobius* (*lapponica*), *Gryllus* (*campestris*), *Periplaneta* (*americana*).

ISOPTERA: *Termes* (*fatale*).

CORRODENTIA: *Atropos* (*lignarium*).

ANOPLURA: *Pediculus* (*humanus*), *Phthirus* (*inguinalis* so. *pubis*).

HEMIPTERA: *Anthocoris* (*nemorum* so. *sylvestris*), *Corixa* (*striata* = *geoffroyi*), *Nabis* (*vagans* so. *ferus*), *Nepa* (*cinerea*), *Notonecta* (*glauca*), *Reduvius* (*personatus*), *Triatoma* (*gigas* = *rubrofasciatus*).

DERMAPTERA: *Forficula* (*auricularia*).

SIPHONAPTERA: *Pulex* (*irritans*).

CH. W. STILES,
Secretary.

CURIOSITIES OF ANTHECOLOGY

KNUTH'S "Handbuch der Blütenbiologie" consists of Band I, 1–400, 1898; Band II, Teil 1, 1–697, 1898, Teil 2, 1–705, 1899; Band III, Teil 1, 1–570, 1904, Teil 2, 1–601, 1905. It is the most important general work on anthecology that has ever been published, summarizing all the literature down to 1903. It gives abstracts of all my flower and insect papers and gives the insect visits of all the species mentioned in them. Band II, Teil 1, 2, contains European and arctic results. Band III, Teil 1, 2, contains results from the rest of the world. I have the satisfaction of knowing that those who ignore my papers also ignore Knuth's work.

Davis' "Knuth's Handbook of Flower Biology" is another thing. Vol. II is Band II, Teil 1, of Knuth's work. Vol. III is Band II, Teil 2. Band III, Teil 1 and Teil 2 have not been translated.

It is remarkable how persons not really interested in this matter should feel impelled to write about it.

In the *Botanical Gazette* we read, "The third volume of the English translation of Knuth's 'Handbuch der Blütenbiologie' has just appeared and completes the work."

In the *American Bee Journal* we find, "A survey of the whole subject may be obtained from the English translation of 'Knuth's Handbook of Flower Pollination,' three volumes published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1906. This admirable treatise has a splendid summary of the more important work done along the lines of pollination up to the year 1906."

In a Carnegie publication, with two authors, it is stated, "No previous floral study of *Rubus* has been made in America, but several European species have received much attention (Knuth, 1908: 352)" and "The pollination of the rose appears to have received no attention in this country, but several species have been studied in Europe (Knuth, 1906: 348)." But Knuth, 1904, Band III, Teil 1, 340, 344, gives abstracts of *Rubus occidentalis* and *villosus*, *Rosa humilis* and *setigera* and cites my "Rosaceae and Compositae" of 1894.

Another paper with two authors says: "Doubtless some of the papers dealing with flowers and bees have been overlooked." This article of 1920 repeats 385 and overlooks 259 of the cases recorded by me, all of them given by Knuth in 1905, Band III, Teil 2.

A paper with two authors involves a trinity, one, the other and both. A fine point of cooperation would be to combine with some one who would do the work and take the blame for any error, while you take the credit.

In "Flowers and Insects" (XXI, *Bot. Gaz.* 73: 148), I made a fuss about Knuth's volume II repeating Mueller's lists for the third time, while his volume III merely summarizes American lists. The joke is that Davis' "Knuth's Handbook" repeats Mueller's lists for the fourth time, while all mention of American lists is suppressed.

In a letter of December 8, 1919, the Oxford University Press, American Branch of the Clarendon Press, says, "Replying to your letter of Nov. 25th, we beg to say that the 4th and 5th Volumes of Knuth's 'Flower Pollination' have not yet been published, and we regret we have no information as to when they will be ready."

It is evident that the authors cited above as referring to the work thought that all of it had been translated, and that all who bought the first volumes thought that the rest would be translated.

CHARLES ROBERTSON

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

AN EARLY BOOK ON ALGOLOGY

A COPY of one of the rarest botanical works in America has recently been found at Rutgers University. This is "The Algae and Corallines of the Bay and Harbor of New York," published by Mr. C. F. Durant in 1850, said to be the first book on algology published in America. Only two other copies are known to be in existence, one each at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the New York Botanical Garden. The work is unique in that every plant described in the text is illustrated by an actual dried specimen, the little cards bearing the plants being pasted on