Bureau of Mycology; a chemist; a representative of veterinary science; a representative of the Imperial Institute; a representative of the Colonial Office, and a representative of the Empire Marketing Board. The principal functions of the council would be to administer a Colonial Agricultural Research Service, which would include an Empire chain of research stations maintaining *liaison* with the Empire Marketing Board, the creation of a clearing house of information and the organization of a "pool" of scientific workers.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology is named residuary legatee in the will of Henry P. Talbot, professor of chemistry, who died on June 18. Mrs. Talbot receives $20,000, and is to have the income from the remainder and use of the home at 273 Otis street. At her death the trust is to be terminated and after $83,000 in private bequests are paid the institute is to receive the residue. While use of the money is not restricted, it is suggested that a part or the whole be used to assist junior instructors to attend meetings of societies representing their professions.

YALE UNIVERSITY receives a bequest, said to amount to nearly $500,000 under the will of Charles Colebrook Sherman, the income to be paid to Mrs. Sherman until her death or remarriage, when it is to be used for the maintenance of a fellowship. Mr. Sherman also left his library to the university.

AN additional gift of $250,000 for the building of the George Herbert Jones Chemistry Laboratory has been made to the University of Chicago by Mr. Jones. In December Mr. Jones gave the university $415,000 for the chemistry building which is to bear his name, and his added gift will make possible a larger structure, with consequent extension of facilities.

REORGANIZATION of the school of engineering at Oregon State Agricultural College has been effected by the board of regents with the establishment of an engineering experiment station and additional graduate work. Dean G. A. Covell, for thirty-four years a member of the state college faculty and head of the school of engineering since its establishment, has been made director of the experiment station and dean of the graduate work. S. H. Graf, professor of mechanics and materials, will be associate director. Harry S. Rogers, professor of hydraulics and irrigation engineering, formerly of the University of Washington, but for the last six years a member of the Oregon Agricultural College staff, has been advanced to the deanship of the undergraduate school.

AT the recent dedicatory exercises of the Montgomery Ward Memorial Building of Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. L. B. Arey was installed as the first incumbent of the Robert Laughlin Rea professorship of anatomy. This chair was established by Mrs. Mollie Manlove Rea in memory of her distinguished husband, who was held by his contemporaries as the foremost anatomical teacher of his time in the west. Dr. Sam L. Clark, assistant professor of histology and neuroanatomy at Washington University Medical School, has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of anatomy.

DR. EZRA J. KRAUS, professor of botany in the University of Wisconsin, has joined the faculty of botany in the University of Chicago.

DR. BURTON M. VARNEY, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has resigned from the assistant editorship of the *Monthly Weather Review* to accept an associate professorship in geography in the University of California at Los Angeles.

THE department of neuroanatomy and histology of the Washington University School of Medicine which was established in 1924 has been reunited with the department of anatomy, the union to take effect during the year 1928. Dr. Robert J. Terry, professor of anatomy, will be in charge of the reorganized department.

A. S. BESICOVITCH, of the University of Leningrad, has been appointed university lecturer in mathematics at the University of Cambridge for three years.

DISCUSSION

THE CHATTANOOGAN AGE OF THE BIG STONE GAP SHALE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

IN 1924[1] the writer called attention to the fact that the Chattanooga black shale in the type area, Chattanooga and vicinity, Tennessee, is divisible into three parts: (1) an upper, thin black shale, (2) a central, gray clay shale, and (3) a lower, thicker black shale. The outcrops of the shale were traced continuously to Lafollette, Tennessee, and Cumberland Gap, Virginia-Tennessee, where the tripartite division was again found. Last summer the writer was able, through the generosity of a grant from the Smith Fund of the University of North Carolina, to trace the Chattanooga shale from Cumberland Gap to the type locality of the Big Stone Gap shale at Big Stone Gap, Virginia. As a result of this study the following facts were brought out:

[1] *Amer. Jour. Sci.* (5) 7, 1924, pp. 24–26, 30.

(1) The Big Stone Gap shale is a northward extension of the Chattanooga shale of the type area.

(2) The Big Stone Gap shale shows the same tripartite division as the Chattanooga shale of the type area, except that all three units are considerably thicker.

(3) In passing from Lafollette to Big Stone Gap the middle gray shale member thickens up, replacing the uppermost part of the underlying black shale member.

(4) The contact between the lower black shale and the gray shale is not a stratigraphic but an environmental break since the uppermost part of the lower black shale in the south interfingers with the gray shale which replaces it to the north. Thus both the gray shale and the replaced black shale are of the same age, differing only in the conditions of their deposition.

(5) The lower black shale thickens by underlap in passing to the north, so that the lower black shale at Chattanooga is only the uppermost part of the lower black shale member. As stated above, this uppermost part is of the same age as the middle gray shale member in southwestern Virginia.

(6) In Tennessee an unconformity separates the upper black shale from the underlying gray shale member. This unconformity has not been demonstrated in southwestern Virginia.

The completed study will appear in a later paper.

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NOTES ON HELODERMA SUSPECTUM AND IGUANA TUBERCULATA

ON April 2, 1923, the writer received a poisonous lizard, *Heloderma suspectum,* from Wheelock, Robertson County, Texas. This village lies in the southeast part of the county on no highway and about twelve miles from the nearest railroad. This animal had been killed by a farmhand as it was crawling about on his land, and was brought by a student to the department of biology of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The finding of this reptile in Robertson County so far from its native home is indeed interesting. Ditmars,[1] Gadow,[2] Hegner,[3] Hornaday[4] and Pratt,[5] limit the distribution of these animals to Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico. Only one other occurrence of the Gila Monster in Texas is recorded in the literature available to the writer. Cope[6] lists a specimen taken at Fort McDowell, Texas. This single find was referred to by Strecker[7] who comments somewhat skeptically on the report and states that he made careful search in favorable localities for these reptiles, but failed to find them in Texas. Any attempt to explain how this lizard found its way to Wheelock, some four or five hundred miles from its native haunts, would be mere guesswork.

The writer has lately received from Mr. L. T. Hunter, county agent, Childress County, Texas, another most interesting find—the common Iguana, *Iguana tuberculata.* This reptile was killed on a roadside near Childress and was sent to the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas on December 20, 1926. Childress County lies close to the eastern border of the Panhandle of Texas, touching the southwest corner of Oklahoma. This find is even more remarkable than the former, since the iguana was much farther from its native home—tropical America. The specimen measures three feet, nine and one half inches in length and apparently is only partly grown. Gadow states that *Iguana tuberculata* attains a length of five or six feet. Ditmars, Gadow, Hegner and Hornaday give the distribution as Central and South America and the West Indies, where it lives in trees. How such a reptile could find its way from its tropical and arboreal habitat in the jungles to the almost treeless plains of Childress, Texas, is an interesting speculation.

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[1] Ditmars, R. L., "Reptiles of the World," 1922.

[2] Gadow, H., "Amphibia and Reptilia," Cambridge Natural History, Volume 8.

[3] Hegner, R. W., "College Zoology," revised edition, 1926.

[4] Hornaday, W. T., "The American Natural History," 1904.

[5] Pratt, H. S., "Manual of the Vertebrates of the United States," 1923.

[6] Cope, E. D., "The Crocodilians, Lizards and Snakes of North America," Report U. S. National Museum, 1898.

[7] Strecker, J. K., "Reptiles and Amphibians of Texas," 1915.

A PROTEST AGAINST CRYPTIC TITLES AND INDIRECT LABELING OF FIGURES

IT is the usual thing to lodge complaints when established conventions are violated; but the writer wishes to point out that there are at least two conventions relating to form in scientific articles that could be violated with profit. This note sets forth a complaint against convention.

Many authors are prone to introduce their works to the scientific world in more or less uncertain terms. They handicap them with titles that are often cryptic in the extreme. For example, what does "A New Insect from Utopia" mean? Any one who has had