

INDEX KEWENSIS

I UNDERSTAND that it is not generally known that the sixth supplement of the Index Kewensis was published last year by the Clarendon Press. This includes references to the names and synonyms of genera and species of flowering plants which were published during the five years 1916-1920, and also includes many which had appeared in previous years in publications which, owing to the war, were not available at Kew.

The Index Kewensis is an indispensable work to all plant systematists, whether botanists or horticulturists, who desire to keep abreast of botanical nomenclature. The original index we owe to the generosity of Charles Darwin and six quinquennial supplements have now been published. Some idea of the labor involved in keeping up this record may be gathered from the fact that the sixth supplement recently published contains some 30,000 references.

With such increases in the number of new species and binomials, especially in such genera as *Rosa*, *Rubus* and *Hieracium*, the work of the systematist would be almost impossible without this periodic gathering together of the newly minted currencies in the world's botanical nomenclature.

As I have been informed that many sets of the Index Kewensis in botanical and horticultural libraries appear to be incomplete, and that in some cases supplements have been purchased for libraries which do not possess the original volumes, I have been asked to direct attention to the importance of the work. I would also point out that it is necessary, in order to keep abreast of botanical nomenclature, to possess all the supplements which have been published as well as the original index.

Copies of the original index or of any of the six quinquennial supplements may be obtained from the secretary, The Clarendon Press.

ARTHUR W. HILL

THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAME
WILSONIA

It has recently been called to the writer's attention that there exists a duplication of the generic name *Wilsonia*. Priority of use seems to rest with Bonaparte's genus of wood warblers described on page 23, "Geographic and Comparative List of Birds, 1823" (cited by Ridgway, page 703, United States National Museum Bulletin 50, Part 2). In 1873 Keyser applied the name to a brachiopod previously called *Terebratula wilsoni* Sowerby. Keyser's description may be found on page 502, Volume 23, *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Geologischen Gesellschaft*, 1873. Rules of nomenclature, therefore, seem to demand that the name be reserved for the avian genus, and

it is suggested that the next available name, *Uncinulina*, used by Bayle for the same form on Plate 13, figures 13-16, "Explication de la Carte France, Atlas," Volume IV, 1878, be used to replace the genus *Wilsonia* among the brachiopods.

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A NOTE ON THE HISTORY OF
ANTHROPOLOGY

SEVERAL inexplicable errors occur in the opening paragraph of President Henry Fairfield Osborn's paper on "Recent Discoveries relating to the Origin and Antiquity of Man" (*SCIENCE*, 65 (1927), 481). The "renowned Hans Virchow" is represented as opposing "the recognition of the Neanderthal skull of 1846 with pathologic and theologic preconceptions." The great pathologist's name was not Hans, but Rudolf; the Neanderthal skull was not discovered until 1856;¹ and any one acquainted with the psychology of that most tough-minded of scientists can only express a hope that all writers on the origin of man were as free from theological preconceptions as Virchow. It is true that theologically inclined writers were fond of citing Virchow's authority against Darwin, but his own position in the matter was skeptical to the point of negativism, not tinged with any form of religious bias.

ROBERT H. LOWIE

PROFESSORSHIPS IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

IN the number of *SCIENCE* for July 15 I note in the delightful sketch of Dr. Franklin P. Mall, written by Dr. William T. Councilman, the statement that "all the teaching positions in medical schools throughout the country, with the exception of the chair of physiology at Harvard, were held by men who were active practitioners of medicine as well, and the professorial positions were regarded as valuable adjuncts to a medical practice."

The time referred to, I take it, is the early '80's. I would like to call attention to the fact that certainly since 1831 the occupants of the chair of anatomy in the school of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania have not been practitioners of medicine, and that certainly from 1818 and possibly earlier, this also holds true for the professors of chemistry in the same school. Certainly Leidy, who held the chair of anatomy from 1853 to 1891, and Theodore G. Wormley, who held the chair of chemistry and toxicology from 1877 to 1897, devoted their entire time to teaching and research.

WILLIAM PEPPER

¹ H. F. Osborn, "Men of the Old Stone Age," 3rd edition 1918, 217.