

THE second national symposium on organic chemistry will be held at Ohio State University, December 29, 30 and 31. Suggestions for the program should be sent to the secretary of the division of organic chemistry of the American Chemical Society, Professor Frank C. Whitmore, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

THE annual meeting of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors met during the last week in August at the Colorado State Agricultural College, Fort Collins.

To commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of the opening by Thomas A. Edison of the first public electric light and power plant in the world in New York City, John W. Lieb, vice-president and general manager of the New York Edison Company, who was associated with Mr. Edison in that undertaking, on September 4 placed a wreath on a tablet which marks the site of the old plant. The ceremony was witnessed by many of the men who were associated with Edison in pioneer days of the electric industry.

CONSTRUCTION has been begun on a new building at New Orleans, La., for the tropical insect work of the Bureau of Entomology. It will contain office and laboratory quarters, a cold room controlled by a refrigeration plant, greenhouse and insectary units, and a shop for the construction of special apparatus. Storage space is provided for spray machinery and other field equipment, and two acres adjacent to the buildings are allotted for special experimental plots. The laboratory will contain a battery of incubators and other special apparatus for study under controlled conditions, and full equipment will be provided for the statistical analysis of data gathered in field experimentation where conditions are not under control. Thus factors developed by an analysis of the varying conditions in the field can be studied in parallel series under control in the laboratory.

THE North Sea Aquarium of the State Biological Institute on the Island of Helgoland has recently been opened to the public. The aquarium, with some fifty large tanks, shows the complete fauna and flora of the North Sea. The pipes that supply the tanks with sea water are of transparent celluloid, which is not subject to corrosion.

THE Minnesota Legislature at its last session reestablished the \$4,000 appropriation for the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association. This fund is used chiefly in the distribution, inspection and certification of improved seeds developed at the station. The association is organized for the purpose of protecting these improved varieties and maintaining suitable stocks for seed purposes.

PROFESSOR LUIGI MANGIAGALLI has given his large private library to the Istituto Ostetrico-Ginecologico of the University of Milan, which bears his name. The library contains, in addition to 10,000 bound volumes, a large number of unbound treatises and rare complete collections of scientific reviews.

THE Etablissements Dornalo, submarine specialists, will undertake in the course of the present season the taking of submarine views in the Mediterranean, in depths varying from 40 to 50 meters, with the help of a diving apparatus which will carry one man and a powerful motion picture projector. Their purpose is to take views of submarine life in its natural surroundings, by attracting to the lighted area all species usually living in these depths. These views will be used for making educational films. The work will later be extended to the tropical regions.

THE Women's Zionist Organization of America, known as Hadassah, voted recently to expend \$609,000 in medical and health work in Palestine, most of which will be to support the Hadassah Medical Organization in that country. In addition to that budget, the organization voted to raise \$100,000 from revenues for medical service in Palestine. The need for medical work in Palestine is considered urgent. The convention expressed its gratitude in a unanimous resolution to Nathan and Mrs. Straus, of New York, for their gift of \$250,000 for a health center in Jerusalem.

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## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

Two gifts amounting to \$550,000 have been made to the medical school of the University of Chicago; \$300,000 for the erection and equipment of a building to be known as the Gertrude Dunn Hicks Memorial, which shall be operated as an orthopedic hospital, and \$250,000 from Mr. Louis H. Kuppenheimer to establish an endowment fund to be known as the Louis B. and Emma M. Kuppenheimer Foundation. The income is to be used for teaching and research in the department of ophthalmology.

PROFESSOR W. B. ZUKER, head of the department of chemistry of the University of Dubuque since 1921, has been appointed acting president of that institution beginning on September 1, when the resignation of Reverend K. F. Wettstone, D.D., took effect.

DR. W. L. HOWARD, director of the Davis branch of the college of agriculture of the University of California, has been appointed associate dean of the College of Agriculture to assist in the administration of the college during the temporary and partial absence of Dean E. D. Merrill.

PROFESSOR I. M. KOLTHOFF, of the University of Utrecht, has accepted a professorship of analytical chemistry at the University of Minnesota and will begin his work in October. Dr. R. S. Livingston, of the University of California, has been appointed assistant professor of physical chemistry.

DR. CARL SNEED WILLIAMSON, formerly of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., has been appointed head of the department of surgery at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, and Dr. Oliver C. Melson, also of the Mayo Clinic, has been appointed head of the department of medicine.

AFTER many years' activity as lecturer on zoology at the institute for investigations in heredity in Berlin-Dahlem, Dr. Paula Hertwig, the daughter of the former professor of biology, Oskar Hertwig, has been given the title of professor.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AGE OF THE "SATSOP" AND THE DALLES FORMATIONS OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON

GEOLOGISTS have differed regarding the ages of the "Satsop" and the Dalles formations of the Columbia River Gorge region. Because of their bearing on the history of the Gorge and for other reasons their ages are important.

During a brief investigation of these beds under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the writers secured fragmentary mammalian fossil remains from the Dalles formation representing not a Quaternary, but approximately an upper Miocene or lower Pliocene stage. This age determination is corroborated by the lithologic resemblance of the Dalles beds to the middle Neocene Ellensburg formation of central Washington, by the apparently similar relations of these two formations to the Columbia lavas, and by the induration of the Dalles beds, which is equal to that of lower or middle Neocene deposits of the west, but much greater than that of Quaternary formations.

In interesting papers by J. H. Bretz and by I. A. Williams the "Satsop" in the Columbia River Gorge has been considered Quaternary by correlation, mainly through lithologic similarity, with the fossiliferous marine Satsop on the Washington coast. In the eastern part of the gorge, however, the writers have found the "Satsop" gravels beneath the Dalles beds. Moreover, the "Satsop" gravels can be traced into central Washington where they lie at the base of the middle Neocene Ellensburg formation. Further, the induration of the "Satsop" is considerably greater than that of other Pacific Coast upper Pliocene or

Quaternary strata. For these three reasons the "Satsop" of the gorge is also believed to be approximately upper Miocene or lower Pliocene rather than Quaternary.

Since the "Satsop" of the gorge is not the correlative of the type Satsop on the coast, the new name, "Hood River Formation," is proposed for these rather unique conglomerate and sandstone strata. The type section may well be the beds so excellently exposed in the cut immediately east of the Columbia River Highway bridge across Hood River.

A more detailed statement of the evidence and of the bearing of these beds on the geological history of the region is in course of publication.

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#### MORE DATA

UNDER "Datum and Data" in the July 1 issue of SCIENCE, Mr. Blake says that "We speak and hence write English by ear and not by rules of grammar," and that "in ordinary use," data is not the mere plural of datum. It was, no doubt, recognition of these very unfortunate conditions that prompted the commendable letters of protest regarding the use of "data" in the singular.

There is no standard in the education of ears, and thus it becomes very difficult to eliminate "ain't" from spoken English. The old dictum that use is the law of language presupposes *good* usage, and the best existing criterion of good usage is a good dictionary. No reputable dictionary admits, or is likely to admit, "data" as a singular form.

But the correspondence which I have seen regarding the misuse of "data" entirely overlooks the chief abuse, which consists, not in using the word incorrectly as a singular, but in using it at all when the intended meaning can be more accurately expressed otherwise. Any one who cares to observe will find that, in probably nine cases out of ten, clearness can be gained by the substitution of "facts," "figures," "records," "values," "results," "information," or any one of perhaps a dozen other words which may more aptly fit the particular case. The general use of "data" for all such cases is due to the same slovenly thinking which causes a writer to use "etc." when he is at a loss for another word; or to use such expressions as "in regard to same" instead of repeating, or specifying just what he means by "same."

The laudable desire to adopt "new" words is to a considerable degree offset by failure to see that they are used accurately, and "data" is only one of a large number used erroneously more often than correctly. Though its use in the singular offends the intelligent