

Upon occasionally adding to the ration the usual amount of oil the cough ceases, and complete protection is afforded.

Rabbits have a certain form of snuffles known as nasal coccidiosis. This type has not been known to occur in the colony here and therefore it can not be stated to what extent the oil would act as a preventive.

For the past three winters the addition of the oil to the grain ration of guinea-pigs has been found very beneficial. The losses from pneumonia have been cut down very appreciably and there has been a general improvement in vitality. In previous years the animals were fed sprouted oats in addition to their grain and hay, but this was not sufficient. The sprouted oats is high enough in vitamin C to prevent scurvy but is either lacking or very low in vitamin D. When the latter was supplied by means of cod-liver oil the ration became comparatively perfect.

The feeding of liberal quantities of green alfalfa to guinea-pigs makes them practically immune to pneumonia. It would seem from this that for guinea-pigs the above green feed has sufficient vitamin D for protection. Either green alfalfa is higher in vitamin D than sprouted oats or, if it is not, protection is afforded because it is fed in much larger quantities.

There is still another possibility and that is that green alfalfa may be entirely or almost entirely lacking in vitamin D but contains some other substance which acts as a good substitute in building up resistance to either pneumonia or snuffles.

The present report is not intended to represent experimental work in nutrition but merely the observations of one interested in raising healthy animals for experimental work in other lines; in this particular case, genetics.

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THE SCIENTIFIC PAPERS OF WILLARD GIBBS

DURING the last few months I have been trying in vain, both in this country and in London, to acquire a copy of Willard Gibbs's "Scientific Papers" (Volume I). It is certainly a sad commentary that in this age of cheap printing, when tons of printers' ink flow daily to record and disseminate the most trivial incidents, the scientific papers of the greatest physical chemist America has produced should be unavailable to those who need them.

It can not be said that Gibbs's papers are of historical interest only. Unlike most scientific publica-

tions of fifty years ago, his writings on thermodynamics are as useful to-day as they were when first published. Those who have patiently labored through his admittedly difficult writings are agreed that we are far from having exhausted the valuable material which lies hidden therein.

The publisher who would bring out a reprint of the old edition of Gibbs's papers would certainly perform a service to science. In the meantime, I shall be greatly obliged if any reader can inform me where a copy of the old edition can be bought.

Since writing the above, I have obtained from Professor R. G. van Name, of Yale University, through the kind offices of Dr. A. W. Kenney, a copy of the German edition of Gibbs's "Thermodynamische Studien" edited by Wm. Ostwald in 1892. I understand that Professor van Name, who is a near relative of Willard Gibbs, will bring out next year a new edition of Gibbs's Scientific Papers.

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE SECOND NASHVILLE MEETING: SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

INCREASINGLY from year to year we witness the further correlation of isolated scientific facts into broad "laws" of economic value and the application of these "laws" to the welfare of the people as a whole. Curious phenomena not known outside of laboratories twenty years ago combined with others equally uncanny are found to form broad basic principles which in one way or another influence the daily lives of each and every one of us. With this development there has arisen in the public mind a keen desire for enlightenment in regard to science as a whole, as well as in regard to each of the various branches into which it is divided.

In order to progress science must find support. A century ago science was supported chiefly by the scientific men themselves, because they alone appreciated the importance and the potential value of scientific work. Then others became interested, and still later industry took a hand, while at the same time the people as a whole began to accord generous support to scientific institutions, especially to those of their own creation. At the present time science in this country, and indeed everywhere, is very largely supported by the general public, either through money derived from taxes or by numberless direct donations.

With the growing support of science by the people goes hand in hand an increasing responsibility of science to the public. The people have a right to be informed of the facts of science, of the progress that is being made, and of what science means to them. Science can no longer stand aloof. At the present time one of the very greatest scientific needs is closer contact with the world at large—a better understanding between the scientific workers and those by whom most of them are supported.

For the Nashville meeting of the American Association and Associated Societies there has been arranged as a general session, a symposium on the broad subject of publicity for science; that is, the broad problem of furnishing to the people the information that they wish and to which they are entitled. Those taking part in the symposium, which will probably occupy both forenoon and afternoon of Wednesday, December 28, are to discuss the subject from the points of view of: (1) the worker in pure science, (2) the publisher of standard scientific books, (3) the publisher of popular scientific books, (4) the editor of popular scientific magazines, (5) the editor of a commercial scientific journal, (6) the newspaper syndicate, (7) the feature writer, (8) the local newspaper, and (9) Science Service.

Another general session at the approaching Nashville meeting will be devoted to an address on "Science and the Newspapers," to be given by Dr. William E. Ritter, organizer and till recently director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, California. Dr. Ritter is well known to zoologists and to biologists generally. He will discuss some fundamental aspects of the question of newspaper diffusion of scientific knowledge.

AUSTIN H. CLARK,

News Manager for the Nashville Meeting

THE THOUSAND-DOLLAR PRIZE TO BE AWARDED AT NASHVILLE

AN interesting feature of the annual meetings of the American Association and Associated Societies is the award of the American Association Prize. This award attracts the attention of the intelligent public generally as well as of professional science workers and other people specially interested in the advancement of knowledge. If not quite peculiar, it is at least unusual, for eligibility to consideration consists solely in presenting a noteworthy contribution at the annual meeting in convocation week and there are no restrictions as to subject. The prize is surely a very valuable thing in American science. The funds by which it is made possible have been given to the American Association by a very generous member who does not wish his name made public. Its concrete purpose

is to help toward further scientific accomplishment some research workers who have already made a really noteworthy contribution. It is hoped that this financial help may make it possible for prize winners to continue their work on a high plane of scientific scholarship. Four annual awards have been made: Cincinnati, 1923-24; Washington, 1924-25; Kansas City, 1925-26; Philadelphia, 1926-27. The fifth award will be made at the close of the approaching Nashville meeting.

The following rules for the award of the prize have developed from the experience of four years. They have been approved by the executive committee of the association and are in effect for the Nashville award.

1. To be considered by the Committee on Prize Award a paper must have been read at a session of one of the several sections or at a session of one of the organizations meeting with the association at the annual meeting at which the award is made.

2. Any paper is to be considered only on the basis of work already accomplished, as represented by a finished manuscript, but it may be in part or in whole a summary of work that has been recently published elsewhere.

3. Secretaries of sections and secretaries of organizations meeting with the association are asked to send in to the Committee on Award, as early in the meeting as possible, nominations or suggestions as to what paper or papers of their respective programs should be considered by the committee. These suggestions are to be in writing and are to be sent in to the registration office, from which they are to be immediately transmitted to the committee.

4. A paper may have the recommendation of a section committee, or of a special committee organized by a section, for the consideration of worthy papers.

5. The prize-winning paper should represent a noteworthy contribution to the advancement of science. The Committee on Award is not to make any special attempt to select the *best* paper presented at the meeting.

6. Authors of papers considered need not be members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, nor members of any associated organizations.

7. It is generally undesirable that the prize go to the same field of science, or to closely related fields, in two consecutive years.

8. Younger workers are to be generally considered before workers who are already well known for scientific research.

9. Under no circumstances is the prize to be divided; it is a single prize of \$1,000.

10. The Committee on Award is to report the award to the permanent secretary either on the evening of the next to the last day of the meeting period or on the last day. (Usually there are very few sessions held on the last day, which is often Saturday.) The report is to be in writing, signed by the chairman of the Committee on Award. Under no circumstances is the award to be reported to the permanent secretary later than the last day