

Perhaps someone can explain the optics of this odd phenomenon.

A. GAEL SIMSON

## QUOTATIONS

DR. F. A. BATHER

IN February next, after forty years' service in the British Museum (Natural History), Dr. F. A. Bather retires from the post of keeper of the department of geology. His vigorous and cheery personality will be missed by geologists visiting the museum no less than by his colleagues. Educated at Winchester and Oxford, he joined the staff of the British Museum in 1887 as assistant in the department of geology and was placed in charge of the echinoderma. After becoming assistant keeper, and later deputy keeper, he succeeded Sir Arthur Smith Woodward as keeper of the department in 1924. Dr. Bather was elected F.R.S. in 1909; was awarded the Lyell medal by the Geological Society in 1911; has been president of section C of the British Association and of the Museums Association; he is now president of the Geological Society. Dr. Bather's original work on the paleontology of the echinoderms has gained him a world-wide reputation, and amongst the distinguished paleontologists of today he stands in the front rank. His memoirs and papers are too well known to need mention here; not only are they models of scientific method, but also they possess a literary charm seldom found in the writings of scientific authors.

In his presidential addresses to section C of the British Association at Cardiff (1920), and to the Geological Society last February, Dr. Bather dealt in a masterly manner with the principles of paleontology, and his listeners felt that those addresses were worthy of Huxley. Dr. Bather does more than look on fossils from the point of view of a morphologist and evolutionist; as is so well shown in his "Caradocian Cystidea of Girvan," he regards them as animals which once lived, and endeavors to correlate form with function, morphology with physiology. For several years Dr. Bather contributed the section on Echinoderma to the *Zoological Record*; although these are masterpieces of bibliography and analysis, one can not avoid a feeling of regret that so much of his time was taken away from original research. In another direction, by the active interest which he has taken in the work of the Museums Association, Dr. Bather has rendered good service to his country; he has contributed many papers to the association's journal dealing with the preparation and exhibition of specimens and other matters of importance to the curators of provincial museums. After his release from the cares and responsibilities of office, all who know Dr. Bather,

whether personally or only from his writings, will fervently hope that leisure and health will enable him to continue for many years his splendid work in paleontology.—*Nature*.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

UPON unanimous recommendation by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the International Zoological Congress, which met at Budapest, Hungary, September 4-9, 1927, adopted a very important amendment to Article 25 (Law of Priority) which makes this Article, as amended, read as follows (*italicized type represents the amendment*; Roman type represents the old wording):

Article 25.—The valid name of a genus or species can be only that name under which it was first designated on the condition:

(a) That (*prior to January 1, 1931*) this name was published and accompanied by an indication, or a definition, or a description; and

(b) That the author has applied the principles of binary nomenclature.

(c) *But no generic name nor specific name, published after December 31, 1930, shall have any status of availability (hence also of validity) under the Rules, unless and until it is published either*

(1) *with a summary of characters (seu diagnosis; seu definition; seu condensed description) which differentiate or distinguish the genus or the species from other genera or species;*

(2) *or with a definite bibliographic reference to such summary of characters (seu diagnosis; seu definition; seu condensed description). And further*

(3) *in the case of a generic name, with the definite unambiguous designation of the type species (seu genotype; seu autogenotype; seu orthotype).*

The purpose of this amendment is to inhibit two of the most important factors which heretofore have produced confusion in scientific names. The date, January 1, 1931, was selected (instead of making the amendment immediately effective) in order to give authors ample opportunity to accommodate themselves to the new rule.

The commission unanimously adopted the following resolution:

(a) It is requested that an author who publishes a name as new shall definitely state that it is new, that this be stated in only one (*i.e.*, in the first) publication, and that the date of publication be not added to the name in its first publication.

(b) It is requested that an author who *quotes* a generic name, or a specific name, or a subspecific name,