

search associates and visitors at the bureau. It is desired to keep it up to date and make it as complete as possible. Authors who have reprints available can very effectively assist in the dissemination of information by contributing copies to this collection, since by consulting it workers on a given subject can find together in one place the pertinent literature, the discovery of which would otherwise require diligent and laborious search through many scattered journals on physics, chemistry, psychology, physiology and sundry kinds of technology.

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### NO METEORITE

ON November 12, 1927, newspapers in the Eastern States carried a New York *World* News Service statement that on November 11 a meteor, accompanied by a bolt of lightning, struck at Fairdale, near Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. The lightning set fire to a building and the meteor made holes 12 to 14 inches in diameter in the concrete highway. Of particular interest was the statement that around these holes in the highway was discovered a strange substance that very much resembled bituminous coal.

The Pennsylvania Geological Survey made inquiry through different channels and received a most satisfactory reply and explanation from H. R. Moffitt, district engineer, Pennsylvania Department of Highways, at Scranton. He writes:

Lightning struck a barn to which an aerial was attached, running thence to the house and down the ground wire and was apparently conducted through the water that covered the ground at this location, to the pavement. The pavement in several places was shattered along the edge about 10 inches in from the edge and about three inches deep, where the concrete was broken out exposing the reinforcing. The total breaks can be repaired with about one gallon of tar and one hundred pounds of stone. The asphalt crack filler, in several places, was blown out and burned and the material resembled soft coal, which I believe gave rise to the newspaper account of the story.

This note is published so that future catalogs of meteorites will not include this one from Fairdale, Pennsylvania.

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### CONSIDER THE USER OF BULLETINS

IN *SCIENCE* of December 9, Professor R. J. Barnet, under this cleverly worded title, has given some very good advice to those who control the make-up of bulletins.

But he might very justifiably have gone further. Those of us who have to consult the technical and non-technical bulletins of the federal government, of the States and of other institutions, often find fault; and as to the librarians, those long-suffering people deserve our very deep sympathy.

Professor Barnet seems especially annoyed by the difficulty he has had in finding the names of the authors of certain American bulletins, and urges very sensibly that these names be displayed uniformly on the cover page or the title page. My first reaction was the reflection: "Well, after all, we do better than the British." I had in mind especially some of the publications of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, the authorship of which I have seldom been able to learn. The beautifully illustrated, but anonymous No. 44 of the "Miscellaneous Publications" of this ministry, entitled "Wasps," pleased me so much that, after a very considerable effort, two years in duration, I learned that it was written by that competent entomologist, R. A. Stenton, now of the Parasite Laboratory of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology at Farnham Royal.

But we must not criticize our British friends while we ourselves are open to criticism. We do not follow the advice of our own best people. As long ago as 1919 the Association of Agricultural College Editors formulated recommendations on the very points brought out by Professor Barnet, and yet they have not been followed by all.

Professor Barnet might have pointed out other things. I have been talking them over with Miss Mabel Coleord, the skilled librarian and bibliographer of this bureau, and from our somewhat different viewpoints we have sympathized about several of these other things. How is one to give exact references with the minimum of trouble when such magazines as *The Scientific American* and *The Scientific Monthly* conceal volume and number in their advertising pages? What is one to do about a repaged reprint (See R. H. Rastall, *Nature*, March 20, 1926, page 418)? Then too, why should scientific men from time to time, as they do, send out reprints or preprints carrying only author's name and the title of the article, with no date and no indication of what it is taken from? Why should the division reports from the various British colonies fail to state the country they represent? Why, in bibliographic lists, should translated titles be given without also the title in the language and the wording of the author? In simple justice to the author, it seems that it should be given as he states it. *The Experiment Station Record* of this department fails in this respect. There are other questions of this kind. They have been discussed, most of them, elsewhere and at various times.