seven small research laboratories, a large general laboratory and several special laboratories, including rooms for music and sound, photography, optics, illumination, electrical measurements and heat and temperature measurements. One room will house a physics library. One of the two large lecture rooms seats two hundred and eighty students and the other eighty. There are twelve smaller recitation rooms.

A NEW chemistry laboratory for Purdue University will be started in the spring. It is planned that when completed this building shall be one of the largest and best-equipped laboratories in the country.

DR. K. LARK-HOROVITZ, of the University of Vienna and more recently of Stanford University, has been appointed professor of physics at Purdue University. He will have supervision of the advanced work in physics and will pay special attention to the development of research.

DR. J. J. WILLAMAN, of the division of agricultural biochemistry, University of Minnesota, has been promoted to a professorship. Mr. Charles F. Rogers, formerly assistant professor of botany of the Colorado Agricultural College, has joined the staff with the rank of instructor.

DR. ANNA R. WHITING has been appointed professor and head of the department of biology at the Pennsylvania College for Women, Pittsburgh, Pa.

DR. FREDERICK E. EMERY, instructor in physiology at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed associate in physiology at the University of Buffalo.

DR. HELEN BOURQUIN, formerly professor of physiology at the University of South Dakota, has been appointed assistant professor of pharmacology at the University of Michigan.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PROPOSED CHANGE OF ELECTROCHEMICAL NOMENCLATURE

WHEN Faraday[1] in 1833 proposed the new terms *cathode, anode, cation* and *anion,* the nature of electricity and particularly the manner of electrical conduction in solutions were not clearly understood. Since he had no other basis for naming the electrodes, he called that one towards the east the *anode* and that one towards the west the *cathode.*

This nomenclature to-day would appear quite ridiculous if long usage had not accustomed the names to our ears. Indeed, as illuminating and descriptive terms they are useless and a beginner remembers only with difficulty whether the anode is the positive electrode or not. To overcome this difficulty, to place the electrode names on a more logical basis and to simplify electrochemical nomenclature, I should like to propose that the terms anode and cathode be rejected and that in their places an abbreviation of the terms positive electrode and negative electrode, namely, pos-ode or *posode* and neg-ode or *negode,* be substituted. None would have difficulty in telling at once that the posode was the positive electrode and that the negode was the negative electrode.

Furthermore, in 1833 the idea that like and unlike, or positive and negative, attract each other was also not well understood, so Faraday decided to call those bodies which pass to the anode the anions, and those which pass to the cathode the cations. At the present time, however, the fact that positive particles are attracted by the negative electrode is so very well known that Faraday's terminology for the ions is unnecessary. Hence, just as positive electrode was contracted to posode, positive ion can be contracted to pos-ion or *posion,* and, similarly, negative ion can be contracted to neg-ion or *negion.* A glance at either of these two simplified names will enable any one to tell at once which is the positive and which is the negative ion.

A further advantage of this new system of nomenclature is seen in X-ray tube phenomena. The negative "particles" or electrons which stream from the negative electrode are called cathode rays. To one unfamiliar with this terminology the question immediately arises whether cathode rays like cations travel to the cathode or whether cathode rays have the same electrical sign as the cathode. This obvious inconsistency in chemical usage no longer exists if cathode rays are called *negode* rays; then, just as *negions* are negative ions, so *negode* rays must be negative rays.

The only other difficulty in adopting this new system is an etymological one. Unfortunately, positive and negative are not of Greek origin, as are ode and ion, but this trouble is insignificant compared to the advantages to be gained.

MALCOLM DOLE

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[1] *Philosophical Transactions 123,* 48 (1833).

AN ANALYTICAL DIRECTORY OF MUSEUMS

WITH the tremendous growth of museum collections of all kinds within recent years there is a constantly increasing demand for information regarding both museums and their contents. The profession is continually seeking statistics on the administrative and financial phases of its activities, and the general public