Aphodius are capable of passing through a screen that will keep out flies. A complete account of the experiment will be published elsewhere.

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## THE WORD CARIBOU

WITH respect to the etymology of the word *caribou* as given by Professor L. B. Walton in SCIENCE of October 12, it may be well to show the aboriginal origin of the term by quoting the late Dr. A. F. Chamberlain's brief article on the subject in the "Handbook of American Indians."[1]

> The word came into English from the French of Canada, in which it is old, Sagard-Théodat using it in 1632. Josselyn has the Quinnipiac form *maccarib* and the synonym *pohano*. The origin of the word is seen in the cognate Micmac *χalibu* and the Passamaquoddy *megal'ip*, the name of this animal in these eastern Algonquian dialects. According to Gatschet (Bull. Free Mus. Sci. and Art, Phila., II, 191, 1900) these words signify "pawer" or "scratcher," the animal being so called from its habit of shoveling the snow with its forelegs to find the food covered by snow. In Micmac *χalibu' mul-χadéget* means "the caribou is scratching or shoveling."

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# QUOTATIONS

## AWARD OF THE NOBEL PRIZE TO DR. CHARLES NICOLLE

THE recent announcement in the daily press that Dr. Charles Nicolle, director of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis, has been awarded the Nobel prize for medicine for 1928 in recognition of his work on typhus fever will be a source of gratification to all interested in the progress of medicine and to epidemiologists in particular. Dr. Nicolle's researches on the causation and prophylaxis of typhus, which have been carried on for nearly a quarter of a century, were first undertaken in connection with an epidemic which occurred in Tunisia in 1906–9, when he was able to show that the chimpanzee could be infected with the typhus virus by the injection of a small amount of blood from a patient in the acute stage of the disease. Subsequently he found that the lower apes could be similarly infected by inoculation of the blood of the chimpanzee, and that the infection could be transmitted from monkey to monkey by the bites of infected body lice. The demonstration of the louse as the agent in transmitting the disease was of far-reaching importance, and, like Dr. Nicolle's other investigations, it was confirmed by workers in the United States and in other countries. Dr. Nicolle also found that the guinea-pig could be successfully inoculated by injection of typhus blood. Although this animal showed no sign of disease as the result of inoculation except by a rise of temperature, it served a useful purpose in forming a storehouse of the virus for laboratory purposes. Of greater practical importance was Dr. Nicolle's discovery that injection of the serum of patients convalescent from typhus was able to confer an immediate though transient immunity to the disease. A similar protective quality in the serum of convalescents he also showed to be present in the case of undulant fever and also in that of measles some years before Degkwitz made the method popular throughout Germany. One of his latest contributions indicates that Dr. Nicolle, in collaboration with Drs. Sparrow and E. Conseil, is conducting experiments on active immunization against typhus whereby a more permanent immunity can be conferred. In addition to his article on typhus written in conjunction with Dr. E. Conseil in the "Nouveau Traité de Médecine" of Roger, Widal and Teissier, Dr. Nicolle is the author of numerous contributions on infectious diseases, including measles, influenza, chancroid and undulant fever.—*The British Medical Journal.*

[1] *Bulletin 30, Bureau of American Ethnology*, pt. 1, p. 206, Washington, 1907.

# SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Astronomy and Cosmogony.* By SIR J. H. JEANS. Cambridge University Press, 1928.

THERE are some chapters in modern astrophysics which can hardly be easily digested by a mind trained in a rigorous spirit of classical astronomy and celestial mechanics. It is quite evident that in order to throw light on the enormous amount of astrophysical data accumulated within the last twenty years we have to penetrate mentally into the interiors of the stars and to draw a picture of stellar material, *i.e.*, matter in conditions of enormously high pressure and temperature. In applying here the physical laws and principles deduced and checked in the conditions of our "low pressure and temperature" environment we are certainly using a very dangerous extrapolation, thus violating the policy of the exact sciences. We use mathematical physics—that miraculous star boring and drilling machine—under the tacit assumption that this extrapolation is allowed by the general principle of uniformity and continuity of physical laws in