

British Museum. In a private letter he writes me:

"I hope you will not mind my pointing out that the remains figured are those of a very typical species of *Amia*, and that the 'united lower pharyngeals' are the vomers, and the 'pre-maxillae' are maxillae. As far as I know this is the first American record of *Amia* from the Cretaceous and there is only one pre-Tertiary European species, *A. prisca* (R. Kner). See A. S. Woodward, 1901, Cat. Foss. Fishes Brit. Mus., pt. iv, p. 371, bottom."

My description was in *Canadian Field Naturalist*, XLI, October, 1927, pp. 145-7.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

#### MISUSE OF SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES IN COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

IN the current candy-cigarette war for the control of actresses' testimonials and the trade of the public, the National Confectioners Association, through its research department, in an advertisement published in the *Saturday Evening Post* of January 19, has hit upon the happy idea of misusing the oft-quoted phrase "fats burn in the flame of carbohydrates." This phrase is ordinarily taken to describe picturesquely a relationship in the intermediary metabolism of these two groups of foodstuffs. By the use of asterisks, one specifically in regard to the above phrase, in an unauthorized reference to my text-book, it is made to appear that scientific workers have given their advice to fat people to eat candy and grow thin.

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#### IMPORTATION OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC FILMS

As the result of the difficulty and cost of sending a film to England last summer to be presented before the British Association of Anatomists, the House of Commons, on July 23, 1928, passed a clause exempting scientific films from customs duty in England and Northern Ireland. The new clause reads as follows:

"(1) The customs duties imposed by Subsection 1 of Section III of the Finance Act, 1925, on negative and positive films shall cease to be payable in the case of a film which is certified by the Royal Society of London for promoting natural knowledge to be solely an illustration of scientific investigation for exhibition before members of a recognized scientific body and which is imported only for the purpose of such exhibition free of duty.

"(2) If any person exhibits otherwise than as aforesaid any film which has been exempted from duty under this section he shall on summary conviction be liable in respect of each offense to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds."

In regard to the importation of films into this country, the assistant collector, U. S. Customs Service, Baltimore, Md., informs me "That the Treasury Department has ruled that cinematograph films may be imported free of duty by any society or institution incorporated or established solely for religious, philosophical, educational, scientific or literary purposes, for its own use or for the encouragement of the fine arts and not for sale, otherwise they would be dutiable under Paragraph 1453 of the present Tariff Act."

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#### REPLY TO PROFESSOR WILLCOX

IN his article in *SCIENCE* for February 8, 1929, pages 163-165, Professor W. F. Willcox simply repeats erroneous mathematical statements the falsity of which had already been called to his attention. (See *SCIENCE*, December 14, 1928.)

Professor Willcox contends that the choice between "equal proportions" and "major fractions" is a political and not a mathematical problem. His arguments, however, are mathematical, and involve crass misstatements of the mathematical facts.

For example, the statement on page 164 that a certain series of quotients "would sum up to 435" is false. Again, on page 165 the statement that the "method of minimum range" is the same as the "method of the harmonic mean" is false. Again, his whole description of the method of equal proportions is grotesque.

Is it any wonder that he thinks it "undesirable" to request "a report on the mathematical facts" from a competent body of scholars?

It appears to be only by evasive and misleading arguments like these that the method of major fractions can be defended.

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#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

##### GEOLOGICAL WORK IN TONGA AND FIJI

GEOLOGICAL work in Tonga and Fiji under the auspices of the Bishop Museum and Yale University was begun in 1926 when the writers spent several months in these islands. At this time Hoffmeister devoted his attention to Eua and Tongatabu, the southernmost islands of Tonga, while Ladd carried on similar work in Vitilevu, the largest island of Fiji. In April of last year the investigations were resumed for a period of four months.