

but it is remarkable that the island of Luzon should have produced the two smallest species of fish in the world, both gobies.

ALBERT W. HERRE

THE HYDROGEN-ION CONCENTRATION OF THE BLOOD IN CANCER

BOTH the lay and the scientific press have recently given considerable publicity to the low hydrogen-ion concentration of the blood in cancer. This is chiefly due to Dr. Ellice Macdonald, who mentions the subject in an address published in *SCIENCE* of the 15th instant. He seems to credit the discovery to Reding, of Brussels, making no mention of Dr. Maude Menken. Dr. Menken first observed the low hydrogen-ion concentration of the serum in cancerous patients and published her results in the *Journal of Cancer Research*, vol. 2, 1917.

H. O. NOLAN

ISOGRAM VS. ISONTIC

UNDER the title "Isontic?"¹ Lane voiced the need for a generic term applicable to the whole class of iso- and equi-lines and surfaces. Comment on this paper by Miller led to correspondence that we hope may be of sufficient interest to the readers of *SCIENCE* to merit a brief summary.

"Isogram" was proposed for the same purpose by Francis Galton in *Nature* (40: 651, 1889) and it has found acceptance by others.²

The expression "connecting points of," used by Galton and by Lane in defining isotherm and other isograms, lacks uniqueness, since lines not themselves isotherms can connect points of equal temperature. We recommend in lieu of it, the phrase "consists of" *e.g.*, isotherm, a line (or by extension surface) consisting of (extending, traced or drawn through) points of equal temperature. An isogram would be a line (or surface) all points in which are equal in some one respect.

ALFRED C. LANE

TUFTS COLLEGE

ERIC R. MILLER

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

QUOTATIONS

A DESCENDANT OF JOHN HUNTER

ON February 11 there died in the Sisterhood Home, St. Hilda's, Shirland Road, Paddington, where she

¹ *SCIENCE*, 68: 37, 1928.

² Talman, *Sci. Am. Supp.*, Nov. 12, 1910, and *Monthly Weather Review*, 43: 195, 1915.

chose to spend the evening of a life spent in well-doing, Miss Helen Hunter-Baillie, the senior representative of the Hunter family and a woman of exceptional ability. She was eighty-five years of age, and could read without glasses and retained her freshness of mind to the end. On the death of her sole surviving brother in 1895 she became "laird" of Long Calderwood—the birthplace of William and John Hunter, and also of Dorothea Hunter, who became the mother of Dr. Matthew Baillie, physician, and Joanna Baillie, poetess. The excellent state of preservation of the old farmhouse at Long Calderwood is owing to Miss Hunter-Baillie's care and vigilance, and to the keen and intelligent interest she took in all that pertains to the men who did so much to mould the progress of medicine in this country during the eighteenth century. Her father, Mr. William Hunter-Baillie, was the only surviving son of Dr. Matthew Baillie, and was born in 1797 within the school which Dr. William Hunter built in Great Windmill Street—a building which still serves as an annex for the Lyric Theater. He was educated at Westminster School and Balliol College, Oxford, was called to the Bar, and, although he never practised, did act for a time as marshal to his distinguished uncle Lord Denman. He inherited a fortune from his father, devoted himself to literature, society and good works, and imparted much of his tastes and learning to his daughter, Miss Helen Hunter-Baillie. He lived for the greater part of his life at 96, Harley Street, and died in 1894 at the age of ninety-seven, and in his home Miss Hunter-Baillie met the leaders of literature and science of the nineteenth century. She wrote in her retreat a small typewritten volume of valuable reminiscences, a copy of which is preserved in the library of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. . . . At an early date she began to collect all old letters which had come down in the family from the Hunters, Baillies, Jenners, Barons, Denmans, Crofts; and these she arranged and catalogued and bound in seven volumes, and presented this valuable collection of documents to the library of the Royal College of Surgeons. To Miss Hunter-Baillie and to her brother, Captain William Hunter-Baillie, the Royal Colleges are indebted for many valuable portraits and busts of the Hunters, Baillies and also of Jenner. At the Hunterian Oration, given biennially in the theater of the Royal College of Surgeons, she was always a welcome guest, and had assigned to her a place of honor, which she well became. Students of the lineaments of John Hunter saw in her face, head, body, deportment and inquiring mind much which reminded them of those of her grand uncle. She was keenly interested in the Hunterian collections preserved in the museum and