

of zoologists than the *viva-voce* vote of the crowded sessions of an international congress.

I speak for the conscientious teachers who seek to give their pupils some contact with biological literature. Confusion of names, absurdity of names, appalling length of names waste their time and dull the interest of their pupils. In some quarters it seems to be expected of the teachers that they shall meekly and apologetically explain to their pupils that all this foolishness is due to the vastness of plant and animal creation. But it is not so. The fact that there

are more than a million species of animals in the world does not of itself necessitate that the bird in my hand shall bear a harder name.

I am well aware that it will be no easy task to find a way out of the existing confusion. Good judgment, expert knowledge, human sympathy, hard labor and long patience will all be required. When these have been applied we may hope for something better. It surely is not well to have scientific effort so organized as to reward mistakes and to preclude the elimination of errors.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ENGINEERS IN AMERICAN LIFE

MEN of science are assuming a dominant position in American life, Lawrence W. Wallace, of Washington, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council, said in an address at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York. By supplementing with broad humanistic and scholarly interests the technical genius responsible for the "Machine Age," they are becoming a controlling force in culture and in politics no less than in commerce and industry, in finance, in education, and in national defense, Mr. Wallace asserted, making public the results of a survey of "Engineers in American Life" which he conducted in association with Joshua Eyre Hannum, research engineer of New York.

Of the 28,805 "notable living men and women of the United States" named in "Who's Who in America" (1928-1929), 2,858 were engineers and architects. They received 1,417 academic degrees in branches of learning other than science, as well as 2,497 scientific degrees. They are members of 1,138 associations, conferences, boards and commissions, half of which are non-technical.

They hold 4,785 official positions in 3,928 organizations, of which number 2,993 are industrial and commercial companies. They occupy the position of president in 1,128 industrial and commercial organizations, 72 engineering firms, 68 banks and trust companies and 23 colleges and universities.

Among these 2,858 engineers and architects there are, or have been, 10 governors, 13 members of Congress, 2 members of the Cabinet, and the president of the United States. Five hundred and eighty-eight of these men hold 905 memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi, the four honorary fraternities in which membership connotes outstanding achievement in various fields.

The men studied hold membership in 1,138 associations, commissions, conferences, and the like, half of

which are non-technical. The activities of these organizations touch practically every interest of mankind, and they are not restricted geographically, but are located in many parts of the world.

Nearly 40 per cent. of the group are officers of industrial and commercial companies. Of the entire group, 37.1 per cent. are available for consultation, 34.8 per cent. have made contributions to scientific and technical literature and 6.9 per cent. have been editors of technical papers.

In the fields of public service scientific men have made important inroads. Over one half of the men under consideration have served or are serving municipal, state or federal governments. City governments have been served by 208 of these men. Among them have been 28 city engineers, 18 mayors, 6 city managers, 3 chiefs of police and 2 superintendents of city schools.

State governments have engaged the efforts of 269 of the group, 59 of whom are now in state work. There have been 10 governors, 5 legislators and a state district attorney among them. The present governors of Delaware, Utah, Wyoming, New Jersey, Alaska and Alabama are engineers. The governors of North Carolina and Indiana hold engineering degrees.

In our federal government, the president of the United States, the secretary of the interior, the secretary of commerce and the director of the budget are among the men of science holding important positions. To name the various branches of the federal government in which engineers hold responsible offices would be to catalogue the activities of the government. Suffice it to say that no other group is more influential in shaping the destiny of the nation.

DENTAL COUNCIL ON MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS

THE American Dental Association announces the formation of a proposed council to deal with dental materia medica and therapeutics.