

than letting it follow the title as is now frequently customary.

Although the writer prefers the name-date system, he is more interested in the matter of uniformity among the different journals. Dr. Merrill apparently agrees with the idea of the desirability of uniformity. If a uniform and improved bibliographic system, the printing expense of which will not be more than the value received, may be cooperatively evolved and adopted, the purpose of the writer's original article will have been accomplished. Such a result can not, however, be accomplished without cooperation in relinquishing certain cherished bibliographic forms by practically all those interested.

Since the foregoing part of this note was written, an editorial has appeared in the January 20 issue of the new edition of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* emphasizing the need of standardization of literature references. The present writer believes that a standard form of bibliography and citation should be based upon the preference of those who search the literature with due regard to the preference and convenience of the publisher and printer. The opinions expressed by Dr. Merrill and by *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* are more from an editorial viewpoint. Those most interested and most affected are the research man, the author and the teacher who use the literature as a basis for scientific progress. An expression of opinion from a large number of men who are interested primarily from the investigators' standpoint should be obtained. Following the adoption of a standard system authors should be required to conform before their papers are considered for acceptance. Let us hope that further consideration may result in the adoption of a uniform standard system for all scientific journals.

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ATTACK BY A SCREECH-OWL

IN the *SCIENCE* issue of November 1, 1929, there was a short article by Mr. Albert M. Reese, of West Virginia University, about an attack of a screech-owl on several residents of Morgantown, West Virginia.

About 1915, on a farm in north central Mississippi, I had a somewhat similar experience. A colored boy about fifteen years of age complained to me that he was being attacked from the air by some mysterious birds in a wooded section along a creek. These attacks were experienced by the boy between sundown and dark. I went with him the next evening after the complaint was made to the place where the attacks had occurred. Down swooped the birds over our heads, making sounds like some one slapping two thin boards together. They tipped the top of my head

several times but did no harm. We scared them off with sticks after they had made many attempts to scratch our heads. I went back to the same place on several evenings for new experiences, even though it did make the cold chills run up my spine to be attacked from the air by birds that I could not see until they were right on me. I took my gun along one evening, and again without warning the attack was on. I saw an object move on a branch of a tree about ten feet from the ground and I fired. Down came a young screech-owl. From then on there were no more attacks by the parents of this young owl. My idea is that screech-owls will attack people only when they have a nest or young birds around. Screech-owls are like many other birds, in that they protect their young ones even after they begin to fly.

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MARMOSA AS A STOWAWAY AGAIN

IT seems worth while to add still another note concerning the finding of this small Marsupial, *Marmosa* (known as the mouse opossum), on a banana stalk in a grocery store. This time it is quite a family group, the female and a litter of nine young. They were found here in a store in Waco, Texas. It was impossible to learn whether the bananas had come from Porto Rico or Central America since the jobber had both in the warehouse.

In this case the interesting feature is the large size of the litter. Rather large litters might be expected from opossums, but the other cases reported have been much smaller. Dr. L. A. Adams, of the University of Illinois, in *SCIENCE* of February 24, 1928; Professor Geo. Wagner, of the University of Wisconsin, in *SCIENCE* of April 20, 1928, and Professor Robert K. Enders, of Missouri Valley College, in *SCIENCE* of April 25, 1930, have all mentioned one or two young with a female. Mr. E. R. Warren in *SCIENCE* of April 20, 1928, mentions a litter but not the number. It is also interesting to note that the adults reported are females. This may be due to the fact that the female attempts to hide with the young and does not escape before or during the shipment.

The color of the fur of the adult in this case is a golden brown with darker lines through the eyes. The young are almost pure brown. All nine are carried on the back and sides of the mother. They cling to the fur with their mouths and feet and occasionally are aided by the prehensile tail. The mother has been seen to toss the young from the floor to her back with her nose, and the young grasp the fur of her back upon alighting.

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