

Some of the large radio broadcasting stations have found special use for the azimuthal equidistant projection with the station placed at the center of the projection. Such a map gives at once the azimuth and distance of any other point from the broadcasting station. Of course a separate map has to be prepared for each station, and this requires a considerable amount of computation and compilation if an accurate map is to be produced.

THE CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE

WE learn from the New York *Sun* that representatives of the agricultural states of eastern Europe have been meeting in an agricultural conference at Warsaw.

The delegates were able to form an "entente cordiale" of eight agricultural states—Poland, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia. Lithuania declined an invitation to attend the conference for political reasons.

The League of Nations will be asked to work out an international convention prohibiting export bounties for agricultural products. Special measures will be taken to eliminate ruinous competition among the agricultural states and also to adapt their exports to the requirements of importing countries.

One important decision was the adoption of a "preferential clause" applicable by European countries importing agricultural products to those producing them, in order to protect Europe against a flood of American cereals. It was also decided to hold periodical meetings of the agricultural entente states.

Poland took the initiative in convening the meeting. This country has already signed with Germany the "rye convention" with a view to putting an end to ruinous competition in the Scandinavian markets, which Poland could have conquered because her labor costs are far lower than Germany's. Poland also has done much towards the rationalization of exports of live stock and by-products of the industry.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Royal Society of Natural History of Madrid has added Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University, to its list of honorary members. Professor Davis has spent the summer at Eugene, Oregon, where he has given two courses of lectures at the summer session of the state university.

DR. ROSS G. HARRISON, Sterling professor of biology at Yale University, has been elected a corresponding member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences in Berlin.

PROFESSOR L. R. JONES, of the department of plant pathology of the University of Wisconsin, has received an honorary degree of doctor of science from Oxford University. He attended the fifth international botanical congress at Oxford University in August.

AT the recent convocation of the University of California, the degree of Ph.D. was conferred on J. A. Pearce, of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B. C., Canada.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Dr. Harry J. Corper, of Denver, has been awarded the Ward Burdick Research gold medal by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists for his work in isolating and culturing the tubercle bacillus. Dr. Rodney H. Jones and Dr. Edward R. Mugrage, instructor and professor in clinical pathology, respectively, at the school of medicine of the University of Colorado, were awarded a gold medal for the best scientific exhibit presented

at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists which was held at Detroit recently. The exhibit concerned the Aschheim-Zondek pregnancy test.

AT the one hundred and fifth annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design, an ibex bronze by James L. Clark, assistant director in charge of preparation at the American Museum, was awarded the Speyer Memorial Prize for animal sculpture.

THE Planck gold medal has been awarded to Dr. Niels Bohr, professor of physics at the University of Copenhagen.

THE Osler memorial medal for 1930 has been awarded to Sir Wilmot P. Herringham. This bronze medal is awarded every five years to the Oxford medical graduate who has, in the opinion of the board of awardees, made the most valuable contribution to the science, art or literature of medicine.

THE governing body of Corpus Christi College of the University of Cambridge has made the first award of the Copeman medal for research in medical and biologic sciences to Dr. Reginald Hilton.

DR. N. L. BRITTON, who recently retired as director of the New York Botanical Garden, has been elected honorary president of the International Desert Conservation League, an association recently organized in California "to respond to an urgent demand for the protection of desert plant life and the conservation of desert beauty spots in the form of park areas containing rare desert flora and fauna."

DR. G. CARL HUBER, dean of the graduate school of the University of Michigan, has been elected president of the Alumni Association.

HOFRAT ERNST FUCHS, professor of ophthalmology at Vienna, has been elected an honorary member of the Japanese Ophthalmological Society.

DR. KARL SUDHOFF, formerly professor of the history of medicine at Leipzig, has been elected a foreign member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Budapest.

It is stated in *Nature* that in honor of the seventy-fifth birthday of Professor Bohuslav Brauner, of the University of Prague, a special jubilee number (May-June) of the *Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communications* has been issued. This number contains more than twenty original contributions by friends and pupils of Professor Brauner, together with a complete bibliography of his own original works and an account of his association with D. I. Mendeléeff.

DR. HENRY MCELDERRY KNOWER has been appointed associate professor of anatomy in the Albany Medical College, Union University.

DR. LEONARD FRANKLIN FULLER, vice-president of the Federal Telegraph Company, has been made head of the electrical engineering department at the University of California.

DR. CHARLOTTE GOWER has been appointed assistant professor of physical anthropology at the University of Wisconsin.

THEODORE DREIER, formerly an electrical engineer at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, N. Y., has been appointed assistant professor of physics at Rollins College for the coming year. He will fill the position previously held by Dr. William S. Franklin, who died last June.

DR. SAMUEL A. STAUFFER has been appointed assistant professor of social statistics at the University of Wisconsin. He will spend half of his time at the University of Chicago.

DR. HENRY DRYERRE has been appointed physiological biochemist to the Animal Diseases Research Institute at Moredun, Edinburgh. For about ten years Dr. Dryerre has been lecturer in physiology at Edinburgh University and professor of physiology at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, a post which he is retaining. Mr. W. S. Gordon has been appointed senior bacteriologist to the same institution. He has been working for some years at the Wellcome Research Laboratories.

PROFESSOR AUGUSTO BONAZZI has accepted a position as director of the Estación Experimental Agronómica, located at Santiago de las Vegas, Habana, Cuba.

THE council of the University of Leeds has elected Dr. Frederick Challenger to the chair of organic chemistry, shortly to be vacated by Professor Ingold. Dr. Challenger is at present senior lecturer in chemistry in the University of Manchester.

DR. GEORGE H. HART, head of the division of animal husbandry at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of California, has been granted six months' leave of absence for study in Europe, partly on mineral metabolism in livestock and deficiency troubles resulting from insufficient intake of mineral elements and vitamins at the Rowett Research Institute. Dr. F. M. Hayes, associate professor of veterinary science and veterinarian, has been granted leave for the same period and will spend approximately three months in a study of contagious abortion at the University of Giessen.

DR. D. ROBERTS HARPER, 3d, has resigned as consulting thermal engineer to the General Electric Company and as associate professor of physics at Union College, to become a member of the staff of the newly organized coal research laboratory at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

DR. A. F. WOODS, director of scientific work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been appointed head of the delegation which will represent the United States at the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Industry to be held in Washington, D. C., from September 8 to 20. All the Latin-American governments are expected to be represented at the conference. Other members of the American delegation are Dr. B. T. Galloway, Leon M. Estabrook, Dr. William A. Taylor, Dr. Nils A. Olsen and Dr. John R. Mohler, all of the Department of Agriculture; George M. Rommell, industrial commissioner of Georgia; Dr. William Crocker, director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research; Dr. Carlos B. Chardon, commissioner of agriculture, of Porto Rico; Dr. Carl A. Alsberg, of Stanford University, and Dr. Robert A. Harper, of Columbia University.

MISS FRANCESCA LA MONTE, assistant curator of ichthyology in the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed official delegate from the museum to the Eleventh International Congress of Zoology, to be held this month in Padua, Italy.

DR. HANS ZINSSER will deliver the Carpenter lecture before the New York Academy of Medicine on Oc-

tober 29 at 8:30 P. M. The subject of the lecture will be "Immunity—General and Local."

THE fifteenth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, from October 30 to November 1.

DURING the centenary of the independence of Uruguay, an International Congress of Biology will be held in Montevideo, from October 8 to 12, the first of the kind to be held in South America. The chairman of the committee on organization is Professor Clemente Estable. The committees in Argentina (*Chairman*, Professor B. A. Houssay), Brazil (*Chairman*, Professor M. Ozorio de Almeida), Chile (*Chairman*, Dr. Eugenio Suarez) and other countries will cooperate to make the congress a success. The central committee and the committee of Argentina have invited a number of eminent men in Europe and the United States to assist at the congress, and the following men have accepted the invitation: Professors McClung, United States; Brachet, Belgium; Rondoni, Milan, and Embden, Frankfurt. The congress is to be held under the auspices of the Sociedad de Biología de Montevideo.

THE German Neurological Society will hold its annual meeting at Dresden on September 18. The principal subject for discussion will be the theory and practice of the problem of resistance in nervous diseases, introduced by Drs. Boeke, of Utrecht; Spatz, of Munich; Foerster, of Breslau, and Goldstein, of Berlin.

UNDER the will of Leon Schinasi, tobacco merchant and president of the Schinasi Commercial Corporation, \$50,000 is bequeathed to the Sydenham Hospital, of which he was a director.

THE United States Civil Service Commission states that the position of principal chemical engineer, Non-metallic Minerals Experiment Station, Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, New Brunswick, N. J., is vacant. Instead of the usual form of civil-service examination, the qualification of candidates will be passed upon by a special board of examiners, composed of A. C. Fieldner, chief engineer, experiment stations division, Bureau of Mines; F. G. Cottrell, chief of the Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory, Department of Agriculture; and A. S. Ernest, examiner of the United States Civil Service Commission, who will act as chairman of the committee. The minimum qualifications for consideration are scholarship equivalent to that represented by a Ph.D. or Sc.D. degree from a college or university of recognized standing, with major work in chemical engineering or physical chemistry. The duties of the position

are to direct the work of the Nonmetallic Minerals Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines at New Brunswick, N. J. The entrance salary is \$5,600 a year. Promotion may be made without change in assignment up to \$6,400. Applications should be sent to the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for Form 2600, which should be filed in the office of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., not later than October 1, 1930.

BY the will of Mrs. Alice Harrington Santher the St. Vincent's Hospital of New York will receive \$22,500. The Ellin Prince Speyer Hospital for animals will receive \$25,000.

THROUGH the interest of the Western Air Express and the Richfield Oil Company, two chairs of aviation education are being established at the University of Southern California. The Harris M. Hanshue Chair of commercial aviation, endowed by the Western Air Express and named for its president, will be filled by Earl W. Hill, lecturer in the college of commerce and business administration of the university. The James A. Talbot Chair of aeronautical engineering, endowed by the Richfield Oil Company and named for the chairman of its board of directors, will be filled by James M. Shoemaker, an aeronautical engineer and newly appointed professor in the college of engineering, assisted by Captain Douglas Keeney.

THE Union of Socialist Soviet Republics is organizing the study of geographical, hydrological and meteorological features under the direction of a newly formed hydrometeorological department. It will have functions similar to those of the U. S. Weather Bureau in the gathering and disseminating of weather information, and the making of meteorological and hydrological reports and forecasts for the aid of aviators, farmers, navigators and others who depend on accurate predictions of weather. It will also study terrestrial magnetism. A district system, with local stations and observatories, is being organized to work on the varied local conditions and problems, for the area of Russia is so great as to include semi-tropical climate as well as polar ice and snow fields. Each of the republics has its own hydrometeorological committee, and they all report to the main U.S.S.R. hydrometeorological committee, of which Professor Vangenheim is the new president.

A new evening course for graduate electrical engineers, which is to be conducted jointly by the Moore School of Electrical Engineering and the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, will be given by the University of Pennsylvania.

DR. FRANK AYDELOTTE, president of Swarthmore College, and Eyler Simpson, both representatives of

the Guggenheim Foundation, returned from an eleven weeks' tour of South America on September 6. Dr. Aydelotte and Mr. Simpson went to establish Guggenheim scholarships in Argentina and Chile. The scholarships will allow \$2,500 yearly and traveling expenses.

THE University of Wyoming summer school in geology (which is situated in the Medicine Bow Mountains, forty miles from Laramie) on July 26 closed a successful five weeks of field instruction in the geology of the Rocky Mountain Region of Wyoming and Colorado. Forty students, of whom thirty-three were engaged in the advanced course, attended the camp. During part of the summer Dr. H. de Terra, of Berlin, exchange professor of geology at Yale, was a guest of the camp, while regular instruction was provided by Dr. S. H. Knight, director, and Dr. R. H. Beekwith, of Wyoming, and Dr. H. S. Sharp and Mr. W. H. Thomas, of Columbia University.

ACCORDING to Science Service, Death Valley, in southeastern California, may become the newest addi-

tion to the lands administered by the U. S. National Park Service. President Hoover has signed an executive order temporarily reserving from entry certain strategic points in and about the valley, pending investigation by the Department of the Interior of its suitability for a national monument. National monuments differ from national parks in that they are usually less developed and less visited, and hence require less elaborate administration and patrolling. A national monument may become a national park when public interest in the area becomes great enough to justify a larger outlay of administrative effort and funds. Many of the present national parks passed through a national monument phase. If Death Valley becomes a part of the U. S. National Park system, it will be an appropriate monument in more senses than one. The late Stephen T. Mather, first director of the U. S. National Park Service, at one time had extensive business interests in the borax deposits of the region, and the present director, Horace M. Albright, was born at Bishop, Calif., on the very threshold of the valley.

DISCUSSION

NOMENCLATURE AND ME

CONCERNING the technique of the naming of animals and plants, Professor Needham has recently¹ pointed out some of the vices of the system, and suggests, as a remedy, a secondary or skeletal system based on and superposed on the expanded Linnean. This secondary system, he admits, would not remedy the vices of the primary. As a morphobiologist I would prefer one system to two. Our real problem is to obviate the exercise of vicious practices on the part of some (let us be fair) systematists. Needham quotes Darwin, who cleverly places his finger on the root of all evil (as did "the Preacher" before him), namely: vanity.

Abstractly, the scientist (and unfortunately, this includes some tyro collection makers) should be impersonal, detached, disinterested. Actually he is a normal, usually quite human being, often with as much of a taint of egoism as others of his species. Our rules and regulations are based on the abstract concept. The result is the humanization of nomenclature. The rules have been taken advantage of by some, and it is just these few that spoil Professor Needham's teaching efficiency.

As a resident afar, dwelling where there are no proper library facilities for checking up on usable generic names, I have reason to know that it is a temp-

tation to make up unimaginable generic and specific names. It is not due to priority (let us be discriminating) that such names are invented, but due to the fact that one's own name may (it always does!) appear after the scientific name if the latter is a new one. Were the "authority" never seen in print, or hardly ever, the temptation would be negligible enough to be counteracted by other considerations.

Another bit of technique is to leave a new genus or species clearly indicated but not named, in the hope that a later worker may name it after its "indicator." Similarly, an author may name a genus or species like a preceding (and "neglect" to rename it although his attention is called to the synonym), trusting that after his death some one will rename it after him. This might be avoided by a rule to the effect that genera and species may not bear the name of a worker. His work (and name in the bibliography) should be enough of a memorial or reward to his ego—and judging from the bewildering number of milestones bearing the same name, along the bibliographic highway, it is evident that some workers are doing themselves credit. One institution has gone so far as to gather together all the bricks stamped with the same name to erect pyramids among their scientific monuments.

(On the other hand, the name of collectors may be used, as a just reward for the hardships some of them

¹ SCIENCE, n. s., 71: 26-28, January 10, 1930.