THE PRONUNCIATION OF "CENTIMETER"

AT a recent meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in New York frequent use was made, necessarily, of the word "centimeter." Sometimes it was given a thoroughly Anglicized pronunciation and occasionally an equally good French pronunciation, but several times during the day one would hear a rather unpleasant variation, an unsuccessful attempt being made to pronounce the first syllable as in French while the last was given a distinctly English sound. Since the nasal sound and slight lisp and burr are difficult to the average American, why not adopt the Anglicized pronunciation as the standard for English speech?

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DISCOVERER OF THE CALCULUS

THE correspondent in your current issue (SCIENCE, August 15, 1930)—Professor G. A. Miller—says on page 168 that English and German writers have long been claiming for their respective countries the honor of having discovered the calculus. Your readers will find in the forthcoming number of *Science Progress* for October a full article by J. M. Child, showing that the calculus was discovered by Newton's teacher, Professor Isaac Barrow, of Cambridge, before 1670. All that Newton added was the algebraic statement of the calculus, while Leibnitz suggested only the algorism now in use. Mr. Child has long been studying the matter and has given it close attention. So far as I can see his contention is perfectly sound, and I think that it was Barrow who invented the calculus. Important works are so apt to be lost sight of in the rush of publications that I think your readers will thank me for calling attention to the matter.

RONALD ROSS
Editor of Science Progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

WORK IN PARASITOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BIOLOGICAL STATION

A CENTER for teaching and research in the field of parasitology has been developed in the last few years at the University of Michigan Biological Station on Douglas Lake, Michigan. Researches in this subject at the Douglas Lake station date back to the first collections of parasites made from this region in 1912. During the next five years researches on the life cycles of the digenetic trematodes were carried on by several visiting investigators. Beginning with the session of the summer of 1917, when the directorship of the station was taken over by Dr. George R. LaRue, a regular program of investigations on parasitic worms, chiefly on the trematodes, has been carried out by the director and his students aided from time to time by visiting investigators. In 1927 a regular course was first given at the Michigan Biological Station in the field of parasitology by Dr. W. W. Cort, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. L. J. Thomas, of the University of Illinois. The presence at the station of three men interested in parasitology and representing three different institutions has made it possible each summer to gather together a considerable group of graduate students and visiting investigators in this subject.

The course as at present outlined covers only the field of helminthology. It is limited to graduate students and seniors who have completed sixteen hours of zoology. The lectures are devoted chiefly to the biology of the parasitic worms, but include also reviews of the more important helminths of man and domesticated animals. In the laboratory periods special emphasis is given to the study of living material illustrating all the stages in the life histories of the different groups of parasitic worms. The class makes a number of host examinations and learns the methods of preserving and mounting. In the summer of 1930 each student made for himself a set of about a hundred slides representing all the groups of the parasitic worms, mounted according to a variety of technique methods. In 1929 eleven students were registered in this course and in 1930 the number was nine.

Researches in parasitology at the Biological Station are carried on by the members of the staff, visiting investigators and graduate students. In the summer of 1930 the total group carrying on investigations of some kind or another in this field amounted to sixteen individuals. The subjects that were covered by this group were quite varied. The largest number investigating any one phase of the subject were working on the life cycles of the digenetic trematodes, including studies on the further development of holostome, schistosome and stylet cercariae. Another group was studying the life cycles of tetraphyllidean and proteocephalid cestodes. The other researches on the helminths were concerned with cestode and nematode morphology and with the life cycles of several nematodes in aquatic hosts. The protozoa of the region have been hardly touched. One interesting research on the blood-inhabiting protozoa was carried out during the summer of 1930. Life history studies seem to be best suited to the location and equipment of the Biological Station. The life cycles of a considerable number of parasitic worms have already been worked