EUSYNTHETOLOGY OR EURHETICS

IN the issue of SCIENCE for September 26, Dean Seashore presents the merits of the word *euphany* as a term to denote the "deliberate and adequate" expression of thought. The etymology of the word is satisfactory, but I can not pronounce *euphany* in a way to distinguish it from *euphony,* and it is difficult to write it so that any one can tell which word I mean. Besides, I should not like to call the distinguished dean a *euphanist.* It sounds belittling. I should prefer to call him a *eusynthetologist.* This word is made up of familiar Greek roots, and means "one who puts words together well." It lends itself to all the variations of ending which might be needed, such as *eusynthetology and eusynthetological.* Of course the word *eusyllogothetist* would provide the better order of roots, but it would sound strange and difficult. A course in advanced English composition, if it gave sufficient attention to the organization of thought, might be called *eusynthetology.*

An easy short word would be *eurhesis* or *eurhetics.* The latter could be modified into *eurhetical* or *eurheticist.* The word has the advantage of coming from the same root as our present word rhetoric, and yet its strange sound might prevent popularity.

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GEOLOGIC EXCURSION

THE annual field trip of the New England geologists was held in the vicinity of Amherst, Massachusetts, on October 10 and 11. Professors F. B. Loomis and G. W. Bain, of Amherst College, and Professor C. E. Gordon, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, were the guides.

The excursion of Friday afternoon started from the Lord Jeffrey Inn. The first locality visited was Bull Hill in Sunderland at the southern end of Mount Toby. Here an ancient lava flow from the west terminated against an alluvial fan spread from the block mountains to the east. The lava thinned out eastward as it rested upon the slope of the fanglomerate.

The excursion then continued its way along the road east of Mount Toby, halting to observe a Triassic valley filled by conglomerate. The conglomerate now forms reentrants into the crystalline rocks toward the east. Later a spur of the crystalline rocks was visited which formed a projection westward into the Triassic basin, and the contact of the Triassic sediments with the ancient basement rocks was studied. Faults in the crystalline rocks which did not cut the Triassic conglomerates had dips toward the east. The problem of the origin of the faulted eastern boundary of the Triassic basin was discussed. Was it produced by normal or by thrust faults? What was the approximate altitude of the block mountains?

The last stop of the afternoon was made in the locality of the Sunderland caves. Here a section of crumpled shales underlies a narrow wedge of conglomerate. Since the shales are conformable with overlying sandstones at either side of the wedge, it is inferred that their disturbed structure was produced by the wedge of conglomerate. A number of theories were suggested for the local folding of the shales. Some suggested a mudflow following a sheetflood in a semi-arid region. Others favored slumping attendant on the melting of winter's ice. Still others believed the conglomerate was projected out onto the plastic mud which later formed the shales by the bursting of a dam across the outlet of a lake.

After dinner at the Lord Jeffrey Inn, an evening meeting was held at the geology laboratory of Amherst College. The excellent collection of vertebrate fossils arranged under the direction of Professor Loomis attracted special attention. The discussion of the evening was led by Professor George W. Bain. The evidence concerning the origin of the eastern boundary of the Connecticut Triassic basin which had been seen during the afternoon was summarized and it was concluded that there were certain facts which pointed to compressive, rather than tensional, forces as the agents active in the formation of the Triassic basin.

Saturday morning there were two excursions. The first group visited localities in Whately, Hatfield and Northampton, where sections of the Triassic sediments were exposed and where fossil footprints might be seen.

The second party made a study of the granites and accompanying pegmatites of Whately, Hatfield and Northampton. At the northern end of Northampton reservoir a dike, approximately eight inches across, had large feldspar crystals at its center and finer crystals at its edge. It was crossed by quartz veins like the rungs of a ladder. The veins were about three quarters of an inch wide and, where they bordered on the intruded schist, penetrated the wall rock. The origin of the quartz forming the veins provoked considerable discussion. Was it segregated

from the immediately surrounding rock or was it derived from a remote source after the dike had solidified, contracted and formed the openings perpendicular to the cooling surface into which the quartz was introduced?

A granite quarry in Northampton likewise provoked considerable discussion. The basic igneous rock originally present had been intruded by later pink granite dikelets bringing with them allanite and epidote. The occurrence was quite similar to the Salem gabbro-diorite at Blueberry Hill, Woburn, Massachusetts.

The two parties were united at the luncheon served in the Tavern, Northampton. After lunch we returned to Amherst and followed the state road southward through the Notch near Mount Norwottock. At the Notch a stop was made to collect datolite and prehnite from a trap quarry and to study the faulting which formed the Notch.

Continuing our way toward South Hadley we stopped at the second trap sheet separated from the first or main sheet by southward-dipping sandstones. Here fragments of basalt occurred mingled with the conglomerate, and it was suggested that an explosive vent was present with outward-dipping slopes of agglomerate.

The excursion ended at this locality about four o'clock Saturday afternoon after two days of perfect weather and of most interesting field study. There were twenty-six colleges and institutions represented by more than seventy persons.

The excursion in October, 1931, will be held in the vicinity of Westerly and Newport, Rhode Island. The leaders will be Professors C. W. Brown and R. M. Brown, of Providence.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

A SIMPLE APPARATUS FOR MEASURING CATALASE ACTIVITY IN PLANT AND ANIMAL TISSUES

THE apparatus here described was designed primarily for the study of "ropiness" of bread. We find it useful also for catalase determinations in tissues. The apparatus is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. It is used as follows.

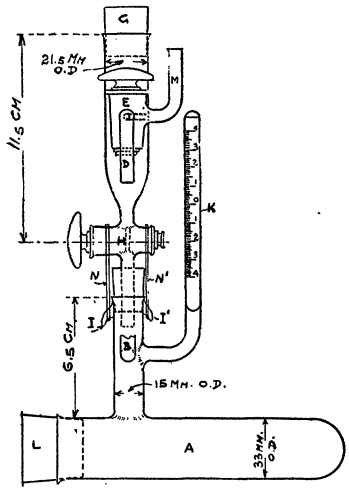

FIG. 1.

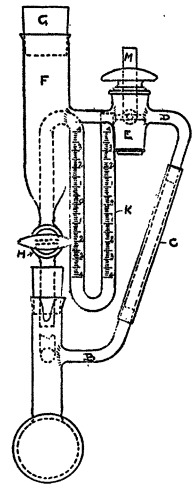

FIG. 2.

Twenty-five grams of the tissue are ground with 50 cc of tap water and made up to 75 cc with tap water. By holding the apparatus at a slant with opening of compartment A tilted upward, the fluid mass is poured with constant stirring into compartment A. The remaining particles of pulp are flushed into the apparatus with 10 cc of tap water additionally added. Stopper L is now inserted tightly. A large glass jar such as a battery jar is filled with water within half an inch from the top. The water should be nearly room temperature (within 1° F.), so that its temperature will not change appreciably during a period of fifteen to twenty minutes. Glass stopcock E is so set as to let air escape or enter through upward bent vent tube M. To hold funnel more securely in place, stopcock H is attached to glass hooks I and I^1 by means of two rubber bands, N and N^1. The apparatus is now suspended in the water-bath by running a glass rod under the upper bend of the manometer tube K and the horizontal tube connecting F with stopcock E. This glass rod will neatly support, therefore, the apparatus at two points and will itself rest on two points on the rim of the glass jar. To establish uniform temperature conditions the apparatus remains in the water-bath for a period of ten minutes. (It is best to take the tap water for making up the tissue pulp out of the jar containing the water at adjusted temperature.) During the interval of waiting there is introduced into the funnel F 10 cc of 3 per cent. hydrogen peroxide which has been adjusted to the temperature of water-bath. The hydrogen peroxide fills funnel F almost to the side tube leading to stopcock E. There is also introduced into manometer K mercury to fill both graduated arms up to the points O. Rubber stopper G is inserted tightly into funnel F.

When the ten minutes required for equalization of temperature have elapsed, stopcock E is turned through an angle of 180°, thereby closing all communication of main body of apparatus with the out-