

-ology are examples. We even say "Roentgenology." But there is no palliation for the linguistic crimes of "hypersensitive" and "hypertension" when we can say "supersensitive" and "supertension," or "television" when we might have invented something like "teleopsis."

Such a central authority could insure that every new word had a perfectly definite and exact meaning which would be recognized by all scientists. Attention has been called recently to two examples of unscientific confusion in the meaning of words. It is asserted that "micromicron" is used by physicists with one value and by biologists and chemists with another. One value is a thousand times greater than the other. Then some one has invented another word, the "bicon," all by himself. I have met no scientist who had heard of it. Yet it has crept into some dictionaries. Likewise the symbols for micron, millimicron and micromicron do not seem to be settled in a way universally accepted. The U. S. Bureau of Standards is definite and precise in this regard, but seems to lack the respect of some. The other example is the word "pedology." The soil men derive it from a Greek word meaning earth. Some one points out that this is a very recent use of the word, and that it has been used for over thirty years to mean child study, with a derivation from another Greek word meaning child, like "pediatrics" and "orthopedics," which are not derived, as many suppose, from the Latin word for foot. Next a soil man tells me that pedology was used by the Russians and other European scientists to mean soil science long before it was used for child study. Surely science should not allow such confusion.

Nomenclature is an exceedingly important subject. So important is it that in the account of creation in the second chapter of Genesis we are told of the first authority on nomenclature. The animals were brought to Adam "to see what he would call them. . . . And whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that

was the name thereof." I am far from regarding this account as a literal record, but at least it shows an early recognition of the importance of correct names in science.

Not only should scientific names be definite; they should also be as simple as possible so as to be easy to remember and pronounce. In SCIENCE for January 10, Professor James G. Needham, of Cornell University, mentions a poor little innocent amphipod crustacean that is burdened with the name *brachy-uropushkydermatogammarus grewinglii mnemonotus* Dybowski, and a very small fish named *microstomatoichthyoborus bashford-deani* Nichols and Griscom. It sounds like a college cheer. He objects to having to manage such jawbreakers and claims that a name is a name to call a thing by, and not a definition or a memorial to a discoverer. Instead of the former of the two examples of sesquipedalianism he proposes *Gammarus mnemonotus*, and nothing more, as being definite, simple and quite sufficient. I am sure it would also be more pleasing to the dear little member of the Gammaridae not to be called hard names.

Finally I wish to say that I fully appreciate the difficulties under which scientists labor. Little help is given in scientific books as to derivation or pronunciation. It would be well if all scientific textbooks at least gave both the derivation and the accent of words derived from foreign languages. Scientists can not even trust each other. I am told that the same word may be pronounced in one meeting in one way and in quite a different way at another meeting held shortly after in another part of the country. My sympathy is the greater and more genuine since I am all the time discovering words that I have mispronounced for many years.

This is preeminently a scientific age. Scientists are leaders. I hope that I have helped to make clear the great opportunity presented to all scientists to be leaders in culture, as well as in the ascertainment of facts and the explanation of phenomena.

## OBITUARY

### MEMORIALS

WILLIAM BARTON ROGERS, first professor of natural philosophy at the University of Virginia, will be honored on December 7 by a ceremony at which the presidents of two institutions will speak. The Technology Club of Virginia, composed of alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will unveil a bronze tablet in the Cobb Chemical Laboratory, commemorating Rogers's connection with the University of Virginia and with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Rogers, who was a member of the Virginia

faculty from 1835 to 1853, went to Massachusetts where he founded the institute in 1859, to serve later as its first president, from 1865 to 1870, and again during the years 1878 to 1881. The dedication exercises will take place in the Cobb Laboratory on Sunday, December 7, the one hundred and twenty-sixth anniversary of Rogers's birth. The presentation will be made by Mr. J. Scott Parrish, Richmond, president of the Technology Club of Virginia. Acceptance for the university will follow by President Edwin A. Alderman. The services of Rogers to Virginia will be

described by Dr. Llewellyn G. Hoxton, head of the school of physics, third occupant of the chair originally held by Rogers. Dr. Samuel W. Stratton, chairman of the board of the Massachusetts Institute and former president, will deliver the address in which Rogers's contributions to the institute are described. The tablet is to be installed beneath an oil painting of Rogers which was done in 1881 and which hangs at present in the Cobb Laboratory. This painting was one of the few things saved when the former laboratory burned to the ground. It suffered only slight damage.

THE building for geology at the University of Missouri has been named George C. Swallow Hall in honor of George Clinton Swallow, first professor of geology in the university and first state geologist of Missouri. Dr. Swallow went to the university in January, 1852, as professor of chemistry, geology and mineralogy. In 1853 he was appointed state geologist, resigning from the university faculty. Later he returned to the university as professor of agriculture. A monument in the Columbia Cemetery, where he was buried, calls him the "first professor of geology, chemistry and agriculture, and the first dean of the College of Agriculture in the University of Missouri, and the first state geologist of Missouri." The monument was erected by the Boone County Historical Society in 1928.

A SCHOLARSHIP has been founded at University College, Southampton, by friends of the late Dr. Alex Hill, in recognition of the distinguished services rendered by him as principal of the college. Previously Dr. Hill had been professor at the Royal College of Surgeons, and master of Downing College, Cambridge.

A MEMORIAL address of the character and work of the late Sir H. Baldwin Spencer was delivered on October 31 in the museum by Mr. T. K. Penniman, president of the Anthropological Society of the University of Oxford.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that a bronze portrait bust of Louis Pasteur, through the will of Dr. Arthur C. Hugenschmidt, a friend, who died in Paris last year, has been sent to the University of Pennsylvania. The bust was first placed on public view in the school of medicine, October 10, when a two-day celebration commemorating recent progress in medicine was opened. Dr. Hugen-

schmidt, dentist to Pasteur, was presented with the bust by Madame Pasteur.

THE council of the senate recently reported to the University of Cambridge on a proposed James Clerk Maxwell centenary celebration. A committee of eminent men of science and others have suggested that the university should celebrate the centenary of his birth, which occurred on June 13, 1831. The suggestion has been approved and it is recommended that the centenary should be celebrated on October 1 and 2, 1931.

#### RECENT DEATHS

DR. GUSTAVE MAURICE BRAUNE, since 1922 dean of the school of engineering at the University of North Carolina, died on November 26, at the age of fifty-eight years.

DR. JOHN L. TILTON, professor of geology at West Virginia University, died in his classroom on November 17. He was sixty-two years old.

HARRY CHAPMAN WARDELL, curator of industrial science in the Rochester Municipal Museum of Arts and Sciences, died on November 18.

DR. RICHARD MOLDENKE, consulting metallurgist, formerly of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and of the Michigan College of Mines, died on November 17, at the age of sixty-six years.

THE death is announced in a Reuter message from Wellington, New Zealand, of Robert Julian Scott, emeritus professor of engineering at Canterbury College, who was head of the School of Engineering from its foundation in 1889 until he retired in 1923. Professor Scott was sixty-nine years old.

THE deaths are announced of M. Philippe Glangaud, professor of geology at Clermont-Ferrand, member of the section of mineralogy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and of M. Emile Godlewski, honorary professor of physiological botany at Cracow, correspondent in the section of rural economy.

CAPTAIN OTTO SVERDRUP, the Scandinavian explorer, died at Copenhagen on November 26, at the age of seventy-six years. He was a close associate of the late Dr. Fridtjof Nansen.

DR. SCHEVIAKOFF, the Russian zoologist, especially known for his work on the Protozoa, died at Irkutsk on October 18.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### PANEL OF EXPERT TRANSLATORS

THE Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, of which Sir Joseph J. Thomson is

president, announces a scheme whereby the association will act as intermediary between translators and users by establishing a panel of translators possessing the