

1828, Casco, Maine. He was commonly known as "Plowmaker Nat."

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### PANAMAN

THE latest editions of the Standard Dictionary and of Webster's International Dictionary give the preference to Panaman as the adjectival form of the word. Both dictionaries give Panamaian (Pan-a-ma-yan) and Panamanian as alternative forms. Both the noun Panama and the adjective Panaman carry the accent on both the first and last syllables, the antepenult and the ultimate, and not on the ultimate alone.

The accented ultimate or final syllable is very common in Spanish proper names and other words, as it is also in Persian place names. When the adjectival form of such a proper name is created in English, however, this adjective becomes subject to the rules of the English language and the accentuation of the original language need no longer be followed. There is much evidence that, in America at least, the accented ultimate is giving way to the accented antepenult, thus, Pan'a man, with the secondary accent on the ultimate. Incidentally, this seems to be the prevailing pronunciation of the noun Panama among even the well-educated Americans.

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### CURE FOR FORMALIN POISONING

IN *SCIENCE* for May 8, 1931, appeared a discussion of formalin poisoning with an appeal for a remedy. About four years ago I developed a most irritating case of this poisoning on my fingers. I tried various remedies and doctors for two years with no success. Then Dr. W. E. Tebbe recommended that I use lanolin. He explained that the formalin kills the sweat glands and that the only way to restore them is to use an animal fat which can be absorbed. The result has been most satisfactory. All trace of the poisoning disappeared in six months. I find that I can handle preserved specimens with safety now if I apply the lanolin at the first indication of irritation.

VESTA HOLT

### BARRO COLORADO ISLAND BIOLOGICAL STATION

(1930-31)

THE seventh annual report of this tropical biological station, as presented by Dr. Thomas Barbour, chairman of the executive committee of the Institute for Research in Tropical America, includes the following items covering the year ending February 28, 1931.

Several additions to the plant are reported, particularly a building at the end of the Pearson Trail. This structure is made entirely of lumber treated by the zinc-meta-arsenite process as a termite resistance experiment in cooperation with the Curtin-Howe Corporation, which controls the process, and the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is fully equipped for use as a residence by any visiting naturalist and located in the vicinity of innumerable bayous and with great diversity of habitats near at hand. The mangosteens and other planted trees are growing finely, the trails have been well cleared, bridges put in good condition and in general the plant is in excellent order.

Mr. Zetek, the indefatigable resident custodian, has prepared a card index of all publications referring to the island, arranged by author and subject, and is continuing the species index begun last year. It is requested that all investigators inform him at the earliest possible time of identifications that are made. Since the species index was started, Dr. Herbert N. McCoy has twice given financial assistance. Several other donations consisting of apparatus are mentioned.

A condensed statement of the facilities which the laboratory offers and the concessions granted workers by the government of the Panama Canal and by steamship companies, etc., has been printed and may be obtained from the office of the chairman (Dr. Thomas Barbour, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts) or resident custodian. There have been no changes in the steamship arrangements announced in the last annual report, when they were discussed in full. One misstatement, however, was made at that time; the special rate offered by the United Fruit Company is \$75 per round trip, and not each way.

A list of seventeen investigators in residence at the laboratory for extended periods during the year is included in the report, together with brief statements of their studies. The published papers resulting from studies at the laboratory now total 148 as compared with the 118 titles last year. The current additions are listed with comments in special cases, and there are lists of the mammals, molluscs, termites, fruit flies and trypetidae. The amphibia and reptilia are listed as known from the Canal Zone as a whole.

Under "Present Needs" it is stated that "the island is badly in need of a simple electric installation to furnish light and power. The dynamo should be located on the dock where fueling would be convenient and this innovation would not only be a great convenience and an aid for work in the evening, but would enormously lessen our fire hazard. The total cost would not exceed \$750 for a one and one half kilowatt unit."