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."

The greatest need of the laboratory is an adequate endowment. At the present time nine institutions are subscribing for tables at $300. Donations total $600, and there are various minor sources of income which make the total receipts $5,583.10. An endowment that would be modest compared with that of many biological laboratories would greatly increase the effectiveness of the station. Dr. Barbour believes "there is no place in the world where so small a sum would so greatly aid biological research." The following resolutions adopted by the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, September 13, 1930, illustrate the esteem in which the studies being conducted and those possible at Barro Colorado Island are held by tropical agriculturalists:

The Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, considering that

Whereas, the Department of Agriculture of Porto Rico, the experiment station of the United Fruit Company in Tela, Honduras, and the biological station in *Barro Colorado,* in the Canal Zone, have been conducting investigations along special lines of tropical agriculture and forestry, and making the results of this work available as far as possible to several Latin American countries;

Resolved, (1) To express appreciation for these valuable services, and the hope that they will be further expanded, and that in the future closer cooperation will be established with other experiment stations and agencies of scientific research in the countries of America.

(2) That an endeavor be made to obtain the cooperation of the experiment stations in the countries of America now equipped to render a Pan American service, such as the experiment stations of Porto Rico, the experiment station of the United Fruit Company in Honduras, the Barro Colorado Island Biological Station in Panama, and stations in other countries of America which have facilities for such services for special investigations of problems the solution of which is most urgent for agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry in the countries of tropical America.

There is the further need of support for studies without immediate utilitarian possibilities. To this end the Institute for Research in Tropical America, which is the organization legally back of the Barro Colorado Laboratory, is seeking an endowment of $100,000. This proposal received endorsement by the executive board of the National Research Council at its meeting in April, 1931. The laboratory has demonstrated its usefulness and should be relieved of its present financial uncertainties.

W. C. CURTIS,
Chairman Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Research Council

QUOTATIONS

THE CAPPER AWARD

WHEN Ossian heard "the call of years" he lamented that no bard would "raise his fame." But the great entomologist Dr. L. O. Howard, whose middle name recalls the legendary Gaelic hero of the third century, needs no poet to sing his deeds in fighting for a half century the forces which "constitute to-day our greatest rivals in the control of nature"—the injurious insects. He has been recognized in a more substantial and significant way: he has been awarded the Capper Gold Medal for distinguished service to agriculture, and through it to those who live by it or on its fruits. The award also includes an honorarium of $5,000.

No one in all the world better deserves such recognition than this entomological warrior in "the oldest war in history," between mankind and the insect myriads. The only hope that the human race has of winning is in uniting its scientific forces in research and attack and in dividing the enemy—encouraging conflicts among the insects themselves, even nourishing parasitic battalions in laboratories to prey upon other insects and so maintain a balance that will permit crops to grow, flowers to bud and blossom, trees to bear fruit and the "higher" creatures to live and pursue happiness.

Dr. Howard has been and is a master of such strategy in fighting these lilliputian enemies, which are much more experienced in the ways of this planet, having lived here, as he reminds us, 50,000,000 years, while man arrived barely 500,000 years ago, and are "the most perfectly adapted of all creatures to live under all sorts of conditions." Fortunately for man, they fight among themselves and prey upon one another—the fleas on smaller fleas, and so on, as Jonathan Swift said in reporting the naturalist's observations, *ad infinitum.* But the surpassing achievement of this master entomologist has been to recruit insect allies and mercenaries from the lower biological orders for his campaigns against specific pests, even bringing them from other lands and sending American expeditions overseas to aid other countries.

Yet the warfare is not over. A few years ago Dr. Howard estimated that the annual loss due to the ravages of insects in the United States alone exceeded $2,000,000,000, nullifying the labor of 1,000,000 men annually. And as to the recruiting by the