THE sixth session of the Allegany School of Natural History, in Allegany State Park, New York, will be held from July 5 to August 24, under the auspices of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Founded under favorable natural conditions in suitable location and surroundings, the Allegany School of Natural History offers courses for studies in botany, zoology and geology with emphasis on natural history. An instructor is provided for each class a full day each week and for a conference hour later in the week. In addition each student works out of class independently or with occasional direction for nearly two days. The courses offered are field zoology and field botany, the natural history of birds and nature study. The small classes and the plan of the schedule make it possible for the faculty to continue actively in research. There is an open-air museum, a nature trail, an Indian garden, a water garden and a fernery. Elsewhere in the park are hiking trails, swimming pools, bridle paths, baseball diamonds, tennis courts and a 120-acre lake with boating.

DISCUSSION

THE NAMING OF THE SUBDIVISIONS OF THE WISCONSIN GLACIAL AGE

AT the 1930 meeting of the Geological Society of America, held in Toronto, the writer presented a paper on "The Peorian Loess and the Classification of the Glacial Drift-Sheets of the Mississippi Valley," which was subsequently printed in the *Journal of Geology*.[1] In this paper he called attention to the fact that the evidence that the Peorian (Iowan) loess had been weathered before the Early Wisconsin drift had been deposited was not valid; that the only evidence of an interval was that of rapid deposition of loess. Therefore, two important conclusions were drawn; (1) the Peorian interval was not of interglacial magnitude but was intraglacial; and (2) the Iowan ice invasion was the first of the Wisconsin invasions.

Additional confirmatory evidence was found during the 1931 field season, and another paper was presented at the 1931 meeting of the Geological Society of America, held in Tulsa. This paper is to be published soon. In it the additional confirmatory evidence was presented, the importance of the "profile of weathering" as a criterion of interglacial intervals was emphasized, the post-Illinoian loesses were dated and their relationships, sources and conditions of deposition were discussed and a picture of the development and retreats and readvances of the major Wisconsin ice-fields was presented. New names for three of the subdivisions of the Wisconsin were proposed to replace those presented at the Toronto meeting and published in the *Journal of Geology*, which had been chosen with respect to the fields of ice accumulation rather than areas where the stratigraphic units may be studied, and which have since been found to be preempted. New names are, therefore, necessary.

The names which were withdrawn were Manitoban (Iowan), Quebecan (early and middle Wisconsin) and Hudsonian (late Wisconsin). The old name Iowan was retained, and the new names proposed were Tazewell, Cary and Mankato for the subdivisions shown in the following table. The name Tazewell is taken from Tazewell County, Illinois, where the Early Wisconsin deposits are well shown in their relations to the underlying Peorian loess. The name Cary is taken from a town in McHenry County, northeastern Illinois, where the Middle Wisconsin deposits are well displayed. The name Mankato is taken from Mankato, Minnesota, where the Late Wisconsin deposits are excellently displayed.

Age	*Subdivisions*	
Wisconsin (Fourth) glacial	Mankato	(Late Wisconsin)
	Cary	(Middle Wisconsin)
	Tazewell	(Early Wisconsin)
	Iowan	
Sangamon (Third interglacial)		
Illinoian (Third glacial)		

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"MESCAL PITS"—A MISNOMER

SCIENTIFIC nomenclature has always been cumbered with a large number of inappropriate and inadequate terms, some due to a creeping in of temporary designations which were never intended to survive the laboratory stage and others due to a lack of understanding during early investigations in new fields. One of the newer scenes of effort in the field of Southwestern archeology has lately come to notice through the work of representatives of the U. S. National Museum, the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Laboratory of Anthropology. The area in reference consists of the extreme southeastern part of New Mexico and the adjoining portion of southwestern Texas. Among the prominent features which distinguish one of the prehistoric cultures in this area, the principal habitat of which seems to be in the mountain ranges bordering the lower Pecos Valley on the west, are curious structures of open circular form, composed principally of small fragments of fire-cracked limestone. These circles occur abundantly in favorable locations from a point near Hope, New Mexico, in the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, south throughout the Guadalupe and Davis Moun-

tains for an as yet undetermined distance into Texas. The name "mescal pit" has been applied locally to this type of structure over a period of many years, and the use of this term has spread equally with the interest incited by the recent investigations. For the two field seasons of 1930 and 1931 the writer conducted expeditions for the Laboratory of Anthropology in the Guadalupe Mountains area, and during this time a number of "pits" were excavated or trenched. It was definitely determined that they were not pits, in any sense of the word; nor were they concerned especially with the preparation of mescal for food. Instead, they were found to be specialized refuse heaps. These circular mounds contained, in addition to the more obvious small cracked rocks, accumulations of ash, charcoal, food bones and other camp debris. As the term "mescal pit" is obviously a misnomer, and as it is likely to be perpetuated by usage, the writer feels that a designation more in keeping with the character of the structures should be chosen. Therefore the name "midden circle" is proposed. Further discussion of these circles, together with other archeological information gathered during the two seasons' work, will appear in a report now in preparation.

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IS GEOLOGY EASIER FOR BOYS THAN FOR GIRLS?

IN an article which appeared in the issue of SCIENCE, dated November 11, 1932, and written by Gragg Richards, of Detroit, Michigan, evidence based on statistics was introduced to prove that geology is an easier subject for men than for women. I have examined the grades of all the students who have taken my course in physical geology for the past seven years. They come from all the classes in college, ranging from 17 to 21 years of age, the larger proportion from the freshman and sophomore classes. Instruction consists of lectures, laboratory work and field trips. A standard college text-book is used, and students are required to supplement class work by outside reading; 10 to 25 readings constituting the usual number, the smaller figure being the minimum required. The average size of the laboratory section is about 25 and there is considerable personal contact between instructor and student, especially in the laboratory and in the field. The grades for the course are on the following basis: A—excellent, B—good, C—fair, D—unsatisfactory, F—failure. No conscious effort was made to follow a distribution curve. The group consists of 647 students, 254 men and 393 women. On the basis of A = 3, B = 2, C = 1, D = 0, the men show an average of 1.255 and the women 1.407.

	Percentage				
	A	B	C	D	F
Men (254)	6.3	30.25	46.1	11.4	5.92
Women (393)	8.9	36.6	40.7	10.7	3.06
Entire group (647)	7.6	33.42	43.4	11.0	4.49

These statistics show clearly that the women are slightly better than the men, although the difference between them is so slight that one may consider them equal in ability. They also indicate that geology is as easy for women as for men. There is, in my opinion, based on eighteen years of experience teaching science, no marked difference in the ability of men and women.

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BROWN ROOTROT OF TOBACCO

A FORM of brown rootrot of tobacco is due to the insufficient intake of calcium by the tobacco plant. The condition may be brought about by lack of available calcium, an excess of magnesium over calcium or the presence of appreciable amounts of ammoniacal nitrogen in relation to nitrate nitrogen. The foregoing findings were the results of researches carried on at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven and the Tobacco Substation at Windsor, Connecticut. Soil, sand, water cultures and field tests were made.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

RECENT ZOOLOGICAL TEXT-BOOKS

IN reading the text-books which have been published during the latter part of 1932 a reviewer is impressed by certain facts which are perhaps worth mentioning: (1) Writers of text-books are unprogressive. They have at last given up Batrachia, Urodela and Anura; and use Amphibia, Caudata and Salientia, instead. But they cling to such archaic names as Platyhelminthes, Nemathelminthes, Trochminthes, Molluscoidea, Pelecypoda, Polyzoa and Infusoria. Even such a conservative institution as the *Zoological Record* has progressed to Platyhelminthia, Nemathel-