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-