July 29, will be devoted to excursions to places of interest. Dr. Thomas G. Moorhead, regius professor of physic, Trinity College, Dublin, is the incoming president of the association.

THE date of the meeting of the Phi Sigma Society is June 26, 27 and 28, not June 19, 20 and 21, as announced in the preliminary program of the Chicago meeting of the American Association.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station was observed at the Farm Field Day in Madison on June 3. The Babcock film, a talking picture taken by the U. S. Department of Agriculture while the late Dr. S. M. Babcock was still living, was shown for the first time to a Wisconsin audience. It shows Dr. Babcock in his laboratory explaining the test and the machine which he developed which is used generally wherever dairying is carried on. Dr. Eugene Davenport, formerly dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois, was the principal speaker. The departments of the College of Agriculture, carrying on research, arranged an exhibit to show recent developments and findings as they apply to practical every-day farm and home problems.

DISCUSSION

MEANINGLESS VERSUS SIGNIFICANT TERMS IN GEOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

IN the February 10, 1933, issue of SCIENCE there appears a brief article by Dr. M. M. Leighton on "The Naming of the Subdivisions of the Wisconsin Glacial Age," in which he proposes the substitution of certain meaningless terms—Tazewell, Cary and Mankato—for the significant terms, Early Wisconsin, Middle Wisconsin and Late Wisconsin, which have been in general use for considerable time, and are readily understood by any one reading geological literature, denoting as they do successive parts of the Wisconsin glacial stage. The incentive for suggesting the new names seems to have its basis in a newly acquired view of Dr. Leighton that the deposition of the Iowan drift came only a short time before that of the Early Wisconsin drift, and so it may properly be included in the Wisconsin stage.

Whether the Iowan should be so included, if the entire field is taken into account, is far from being clearly established. This has been made forcibly apparent in a recent report by Dr. W. C. Alden on eastern Montana and adjacent areas (Professional Paper 174, U. S. Geological Survey, issued in 1932). There are deposits in Montana and the Dakotas which Dr. Alden is inclined to refer to the Iowan, but he considers them too old to be included in the Wisconsin stage. These are discussed by him under the heading "Illinoian or Iowan." But he thinks they do not appear to be as old as the Illinoian of Illinois.

Inasmuch as the entire series of drifts classed as Illinoian, Iowan and Wisconsin fall in the last quarter of the Pleistocene Period the distinctions in age aspects are less striking than between these drifts and those of middle and early Pleistocene age, known as Kansan and Nebraskan. This being the case, it seems advisable to let the terms that are in general use stand, especially where they have significance, and are self-explanatory, and not replace them by a set of meaningless terms.

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THREE PREHISTORIC PARASITES

IN 1916–17 an expedition of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology of Harvard University excavated Basket-Maker Indian remains from desert caves in the northeastern portion of Arizona. Several human bodies were recovered and these have been described in the museum report[1] and elsewhere.[2]

Besides the human remains, two dogs were also found in undisturbed burial cists dug into the hard pan of the so-called "White Dog" cave. With the larger dog were found the bodies of many thousand flies. These flies were identified at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard as being *Caliphora coloradensis*.

Just recently a thorough microscopic examination has been made of uncontaminated skin and hair taken from the larger dog, and in a surprisingly well-preserved state have been found the eggs and young adults of a louse (*Trichodectus*), eggs and adults of a flea (*Sarcopsylla penetrans*), and numerous colonies of a fungus (*Trichosporum giganteum*) growing upon the hair shafts.

The only claim to fame of these insignificant parasites is their age, which has been conservatively estimated to be between six and ten thousand years.

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF SERAPIAS HELLEBORINE IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Serapias Helleborine L.—classified in the past as *Epipactis Crantz; E. latifolia* All.; *E. viridiflora*

[1] S. J. Guernsey and A. V. Kidder, "Basket-Maker Caves of Northeastern Arizona," Peabody Museum papers, Vol. viii, No. 2, 1921.

[2] G. E. Wilson, "A Study in American Paleohistology," *American Naturalist*, Vol. lxi, 1927.