

SCIENCE

VOL. 79

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1934

No. 2048

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Recent Trends in the Humanities:</i> DR. WALDO G. LELAND	281
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>Jubilee of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society; The 200-inch Telescope Mirror; Princeton Expedition to Canada; Student Scientific Conference at Smith College; Research Conference on Spectroscopy and its Applications; The Toronto Meeting of the American Association of Museums; Recent Deaths</i>	285
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	289
<i>Discussion:</i>	
<i>Definitions of the Mathematical Term Group:</i> PROFESSOR G. A. MILLER. <i>A Name for Bio-hydraulic Activities:</i> DR. DENIS L. FOX. <i>Antecedent Lightning Protection:</i> DR. HUGH SKILLING. <i>Pleospora Lycopersici E. and E. March., a Tomato Pathogen in the United States:</i> DR. G. B. RAMSEY. <i>Diploneura Nitidula Meigen:</i> DR. JAMES A. MULLEN	291
<i>Special Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Anthropological Expedition to the Northwest of South Australia:</i> J. B. CLELAND. <i>An Expedition to Hainan:</i> TSEN-HWANG SHAW	295
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Termites and Termite Control—A Report to the Termite Investigations Committee:</i> DR. L. O. HOWARD. <i>Mass Spectra and Isotopes:</i> PROFESSOR A. J. DEMPSTER	296

<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>Beyond Uranium with the Magneto-optic Method of Analysis:</i> PROFESSOR JACOB PAPISH and A. C. SHUMAN. <i>Continuous Phytoplankton Collection:</i> DR. LYMAN D. PHIFER	297
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Electrical Excitation of the Nervous System:</i> RICHARD U. LIGHT and PROFESSOR E. L. CHAFFEE. <i>Contraction in the Striated Muscle of Some Vertebrate Animals:</i> PROFESSOR ULRIC DAHLGREN. <i>A Non-bitter Variety of Melilotus:</i> PROFESSOR R. A. BRINK. <i>A New Type of Broad Base Terrace:</i> PROFESSOR F. L. DULEY	299
<i>Science News</i>	6

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00

Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

RECENT TRENDS IN THE HUMANITIES¹

By Dr. WALDO G. LELAND

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

I

WE may, if we like, think of all knowledge as assuming the form of a triangle, of which one apex is occupied by the natural and physical sciences, another by the social sciences and the third by the humanities. The natural and physical sciences deal with man's environment, the most remote as well as the most immediate; the social sciences with man in his associations with other men; while the humanities concern themselves with the manifestations of his spiritual existence.

The figure of the triangle is convenient in that it emphasizes the close union of all three fields of study, between which no definite boundaries can be drawn. The natural sciences are complemented by the humanities, and the latter find their extension in the social

sciences, which must depend upon them, as well as upon the natural and physical sciences, for fundamental data. For the humanities man is inseparable from his physical environment and from his associations. Not even by ascending into the stratosphere can he escape from either.

The task of the humanities is to recover all that may be recovered of the spiritual experience of mankind, throughout the ages of human history and throughout the entire scene of human activity, and to interpret this experience for the enrichment of life as it must be lived in the present.

The data of the humanities are all the manifestations of the spiritual life of man, expressed in spoken or written language, or in artistic, musical or other action. Their methods are historical and descriptive; whether they are true sciences or whether they are something less and at the same time something more does not greatly matter. Their validity depends upon the selection, critical study and appraisal of their

¹ Address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of Section L—Historical and Philological Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, December, 1933.

McGraw - Hill Publications in the Zoölogical Sciences

A Successful New Text
in elementary zoölogy

•
ANIMAL BIOLOGY

By ROBERT H. WOLCOTT
Late Professor of Zoölogy, University of Nebraska

601 pages, 6x9, illustrated. \$3.50

The following partial adoption list is representative of the colleges and universities which have adopted Wolcott's *Animal Biology*:

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

LA CROSSE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

OSHKOSH STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Five features of the book have received particularly favorable comment:

1. **Breadth of treatment.** The text covers the whole field of zoölogy, combining the approach of the "types" course with that of the "principles" course. Thus, the book gives the full portrayal of certain processes or principles rather than the selection of a "typical" example, in such a way that each variation receives its due share of attention without obscuring the whole. In this manner the student is acquainted with what may be termed points of attachment to which the advanced courses may be articulated.
2. **Balance.** All topics are adequately treated, yet none receives undue emphasis. There is no maze of obscuring detail. In this regard the handling of vertebrates is especially noteworthy.
3. **Logical arrangement.** The material is carefully organized in logical, systematic sequence, lending itself admirably to class assignments. In addition, the material is divided into short chapters, so that the presentation may be easily changed or parts omitted without loss of continuity.
4. **Excellent illustrations.** The book contains a wealth of unusual illustrations, including a large number not previously published. Full names, rather than symbols, are used.
5. **Helpful glossary.** The glossary gives words diacritically marked for proper pronunciation.

Send for a copy on approval

McGraw - Hill Book Company, Inc.

330 West 42nd Street, New York

Aldwych House, London, W.C.2