

*Education* (Vol. 10, page 614) of which reprints are available. The following periodicals have already published more or less extensive discussions of the encyclopedia and two others indicated their intention to do so: *Science News Letter*, News Edition of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry*, London, *Journal of Canadian Chemistry and Metallurgy*, Toronto, and *Chemicky Obzor*, Prague.

The plan, as outlined, has the hearty endorsement of many leading chemists, and several persons in remote places have written for abstracting reservations. Five persons, excluding the author, are at present actively engaged in abstracting chemical literature for this encyclopedia. All of these, but one, are located outside of Morgantown. It is hoped that this number will rapidly increase as the project becomes known and its value realized. The success of the enterprise is only possible through wide publicity and the securing of ample abstracting service to make the work exhaustive and international in character.

When the compilation of all known reaction data is complete, the records will be published, and arrangements made to perpetuate the work by suitable supplements. Any one wishing to contribute to the success of this undertaking may obtain reprints and other particulars by addressing the author at Morgantown, W. Va.

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#### THE PARSELENIC CIRCLE

THE "peculiar optical phenomenon" mentioned by Professor A. L. Fitch, of the University of Maine, in the April 27 issue of *SCIENCE*, was reported to me in correspondence from Professor M. F. Jordan, of the Department of Astronomy of the same institution, on February 28.

I am indebted to Dr. C. F. Brooks, of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, for the information that

the phenomena in question are evidently the relatively rare parselenic circle and parselenae of  $22^\circ$  and  $46^\circ$ . The circle is due to the reflection of moonlight from the vertical faces of ice crystals. It is, of course, distinct from the usual lunar halo and the parselenae due to diffraction. The optics and geometry of a parselenic circle, which corresponds to solar phenomenon, parhelic circle, is adequately presented in Humphreys' "Physics of the Air" (2d edition, 1929, pages 519-520).

As I have not yet seen a reply to Professor Fitch's inquiry for information, I am taking the liberty of communicating the above.

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#### THE COST OF GERMAN PUBLICATIONS

THE note by Benjamin Harrow<sup>1</sup> regarding the cost of "Beilstein," Suppl. Vol. 13-14 is somewhat startling. The figure quoted—\$60.55—is in terms of sixty-cent dollars, however. On the old basis the price would be \$36.33, almost the same as Suppl. Vol. 11-12.

Perhaps a better illustration of Professor Harrow's point would be the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie*, which, until 1924, published 3 to 4 volumes per year. From 1924 to 1928 the number was almost doubled. Then the journal was divided into two parts. Twenty-two volumes of Teil B, averaging 475 pages each, had appeared by September, 1933, while Teil A continued at the previous rate. The cost, in 1932, was the same for both parts, about \$12.50 per volume.

Whether or not this has anything to do with reparations is problematical. May it not be one more result of the change in economic conditions? The swing from a system based on scarcity to one encumbered with abundance is certain to be far-reaching in its effects.

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## SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

#### THE MISSOURI ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

AN organization meeting, sponsored by a committee on arrangements appointed by Acting President Robbins, of the University of Missouri, was held at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., on Friday, April 13, and Saturday, April 14. The attendance at this meeting was about 250. To this preliminary meeting were invited the science teachers of the approximately fifty universities, colleges and junior colleges of Missouri. The invitation to join the academy will be extended to others who should be

interested, such as high-school teachers, physicians, scientists employed by industry or by the state, students, etc. Membership is open to any one interested, and the privilege of joining as a charter member is to be held open until the first annual meeting, which is to be held in the fall of 1934. The membership is already well above three hundred, and is increasing rapidly. Scientific clubs, schools and other organizations may affiliate with the academy by becoming institutional members.

<sup>1</sup> *SCIENCE*, 79: 410.