

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° and 46° . 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 Harrow¹ 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.

¹ *SCIENCE*, 79: 410.

The program of the organization meeting was as follows:

Friday, April 13, 3:00 to 5:00 P. M.: Open house by scientific departments of University of Missouri, to welcome visitors and to discuss plans for formation of sections.

4:00 P. M.: Meeting of Temporary Council.

6:15 P. M.: Dinner, Tiger Hotel; Address of Welcome, Dean Wm. J. Robbins, Graduate School, University of Missouri, representing President Walter Williams.

8:00 P. M.: General Session:

(a) "Scientific Investigation as a State Asset," Professor Wm. J. Robbins (Botany), University of Missouri.

(b) "Cooperation in Scientific Research," Professor W. C. Curtis (Zoology), University of Missouri.

(c) "The Advent of Anesthesia," motion pictures, by courtesy of Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, St. Louis.

Saturday, April 14: General Session:

(a) "The Feeding of Nestling Birds," Professor Albert E. Shirling (Biology), Teachers College, Kansas City.

(b) "Properties of the Operator $\sqrt{-1}$ in Expressions for Power in Alternating Current Circuits," Dean A. S. Langsdorf, School of Engineering and Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis; Vice-president, Academy of Science of St. Louis.

(c) "The Scientific Basis of Low-cost Road Building," Dr. Hans F. Winterkorn, State Highway Department, Jefferson City, Mo.; formerly of Heidelberg University, Germany.

(d) "Is there a Calcium-Iron Antagonism between Soil and Wood?" Professor A. C. Magill (Chemistry), Southeast Missouri State Teachers College, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

(e) "Possible Functions and Activities of a Missouri Academy of Science," Professor John H. Harty (Physics), Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, Kirksville, Mo.

(f) Business Meeting:

(1) Adoption of Constitution and By-laws.

(2) Election of Officers.

The temporary council was made up of one representative from each school, selected by the school at the request of the committee on arrangements. At its meeting, the tentative constitution and by-laws were discussed and recommended for adoption as amended, together with other plans recommended for carrying them into effect. The final adoption is to occur at the first annual meeting, in the fall of 1934; a committee is to be formed which will receive suggestions and formulate any amendments which appear desirable. The amended constitution and by-laws were adopted, as recommended at the business meeting on Saturday morning.

The following officers were elected, to serve until the fall meeting: *President*, Dean A. S. Langsdorf, Washington University, St. Louis; *Vice-president*, Dr. F. T. H'Doubler, Springfield, Mo.; *Secretary*,

Professor R. T. Dufford, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.; *Treasurer*, Professor R. A. Wells, Park College, Parkville, Mo.

The committee on arrangements consisted of Professors Louis Ingold (mathematics), *chairman*; Rudolf Bennett (zoology), *secretary*; R. T. Dufford (physics); E. B. Branson (geology); W. C. Curtis (zoology); Addison Gulick (physiological chemistry); E. S. Haynes (astronomy); Wm. J. Robbins (botany); L. J. Stadler (field crops); A. E. Stearn (chemistry); W. A. Tarr (geology); C. J. Tucker (botany); Herman Schlundt (chemistry); G. E. Wahlin (mathematics). The subcommittee on program was headed by Professor Stearn; and the subcommittee on constitution and organization by Professor Dufford, who also served as temporary chairman of the committee on arrangements after Professor Ingold was compelled by ill health to take a leave of absence.

The committee on arrangements originally invited the Academy of Science of St. Louis to reorganize and expand into a state-wide organization; but this plan was found upon conference not to be feasible, on account of certain legal complications, and it was felt that it was undesirable for the St. Louis Academy to lose its identity. The St. Louis Academy therefore has cooperated in the formation of the Missouri Academy, and plans to become affiliated with it.

The Audubon Society of Missouri has already become affiliated with the academy, and will probably meet concurrently with it.

R. T. DUFFORD,
Secretary

THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE forty-eighth annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science was held at Drake University at Des Moines on April 20 and 21, with 258 members and visitors in registered attendance.

The presidential address, "The Future of Science," was presented by Dr. E. J. Cable, of Iowa State Teachers College. The remainder of the general meeting was devoted to a demonstration of the cathode ray oscillograph and its application to the study of acoustic phenomena. Drs. Joseph Tiffin and Don Lewis, of the department of psychology of the State University of Iowa, were in charge of the demonstration. The annual academy lecture was given by Dr. Julius Stieglitz, of the department of chemistry of the University of Chicago, on "Chemistry and Recent Progress in Medicine." Dr. C. P. Gillette, of the department of entomology of the Colorado State College at Fort Collins, was elected to honorary fellowship in the academy. The academy convened in eight sections for the presentation of 149 papers of special interest.

The following officers and section chairmen were