geneticists to standardize the word as promptly as possible by conforming to the proper spelling and pronunciation, ăl-lēle′. The word comes into English by way of the German "Allel" (pronounced äl-lāil′) the accent on the second syllable being appropriate only if the vowel in that syllable be long, as it is in the German and should be in the English. The Greek from which the word is ultimately derived is in harmony with this form, for 'αλλήλων (= of one another, from 'αλλος, other) has the long ē (eta) and the accent on the second syllable.

The normal accent for an English substantive with the spelling "allel" would be on the first syllable, ăl′lel (*cf.* Ma′bel, reb′el, etc.). To throw the accent on the second syllable while retaining the short sound of the vowel in that syllable would require the addition of another l or le (*cf.* rebellious). It is not difficult to find exceptions to these rules, in English, but there is no good reason for *making* exceptions when new words are being launched, and less reason for converting a word which has been used initially in its correct form, to a form which contravenes the normal rules of orthography.

The words "gene" and "clone" have finally won their way to uniform usage, and it is to be hoped that "allele" will reach the same status of uniformity and philological correctness with as little delay as possible. The same principles are involved in all three words.

GEO. H. SHULL

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

GERMAN PERIODICALS AGAIN

As the chairman of the American Library Association committee on German periodicals the undersigned spent ten days in Germany in May conferring with a committee of the Börsenverein and with various German officials. As a result of these conversations, he was authorized to make the following statement (translated):

> I am authorized to make the following statement:
>
> A high authority in the German government has informed me that it is the present policy of the German government to reduce substantially the export prices of books and periodicals in order to ameliorate in so far as possible the difficulties which foreign libraries have experienced through depressed currencies in the procuring of German literature. The definite plan and methods will be made known before June 20, 1935.

On June 20 a cable was received from Dr. Hoevel of the Propaganda Ministerium which reads as follows (translated):

> "The foreign prices of German books and periodicals for libraries will be reduced 25 per cent. effective about August first, 1935.—Doctor Hoevel."

The following resolution was adopted by the American Library Association at the closing meeting on June 29:

> RESOLVED:
>
> . . . Be it further resolved that this Association endorse the resolution passed by the College and Reference Section and express to the German government its appreciation of the action of the government in effecting a reduction of 25% in the export prices of books and periodicals for libraries. Be it further resolved, that the Secretary be instructed to inform the German government of this action.

The basis of the disagreement between American libraries and German publishers rests upon the method of publication in Germany, which differs from that of most other countries. The publication of scientific books and periodicals generally is endowed to some extent through societies and through university presses. The attempts of the Engineering Societies, the American Mathematical Society, the British chemical societies and other organizations to raise funds for the endowment of scientific publications are well known. There are no endowments left in Germany owing to the depreciation of the currency a number of years ago. Therefore, the publication of scientific books and periodicals must be either self-supporting or subsidized by the government.

Apparently the German government recognizes the difficulties in the situation. The final solution of the problems caused by present-day difficulties in international trade in general and by two divergent methods of scientific publishing in particular is neither simple nor clear, but at least some very decided progress has been made, thanks to this friendly action of the German government.

CHARLES H. BROWN
Chairman A. L. A. Committee on German Periodicals
IOWA STATE COLLEGE LIBRARY

THE BRITISH GUIANA EXPEDITION

WE are preparing to sail to conduct important ethnological and archeological research among the isolated aborigines of the remote Rupununi District of British Guiana before the impending colonization of the region, by the Colonial Government, destroys forever these primitive American Indian cultures.

This is a fully accredited scientific expedition sanctioned by the U. S. Department of State and authorized by the British Guiana Government.

Owing to the character of the work we shall operate radially from a comfortably established Base Camp and Field Laboratory some four hundred miles in the interior and I should like to extend an invitation through the pages of SCIENCE to qualified students in

all fields of natural history who might wish to take advantage of our organized expeditionary research in this region.

The New York Times has equipped the expedition with code radio transmitting and receiving apparatus, with which daily communications, news dispatches, etc., will be released from the base camp. The expedition is electrically equipped to provide for unusual field comforts and laboratory facilities and should offer extremely pleasant conditions for extensive studies of a practically unknown area.

While the expedition is essentially ethnological in character, it is my desire to increase the scope of scientific accomplishments while in the field by adding to the personnel such scientific members as may be qualified to contribute their bare transportation and living expenses, which are estimated at $1,250.00 for a full interval (New York to New York) of six months.

Supplementary field activities will include: (a) The collection of fine-grained geological specimens for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Geology, for time relation research. (b) A specimen of the rare, landlocked *Arapaima gigas*, a fifteen-foot, five hundred pound fresh-water fish, is to be secured for the American Museum of Natural History. (c) Geographical data will be filed with the American Geographical Society. This will include the exploration of Mt. Roraima, popularly known through Conan Doyle's fictional extravaganza as the "Lost World." (d) An experiment will be conducted to determine the effect of a controlled diet of modern prepared foods on the physical development of a selected group of primitive children.

All members of the expedition will be entirely free to devote their full time to their respective interests. They will be at liberty to write and to lecture on their specific subjects upon the return of the expedition and may equip themselves with both still and moving picture cameras for this purpose.

Inquiries and applications should be directed without delay to the headquarters of the expedition at Essex House, 160 Central Park South, New York City.

The expedition is thoroughly equipped for the general maintenance of the health of the party, but applicants will be required to provide health certificates attesting their physical ability to withstand the rigors of tropical life.

R. STUART MURRAY,
Leader, British Guiana Expedition, 1935

SCIENCE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

ALLOW me to amend Waldemar Kaempffert's contention that "if we had a public adequately educated in science it would not be necessary . . . to resort to the literary devices of the primary school reader . . ." (SCIENCE, June 28, p. 640). The average intelligence and comprehension of the readers of our daily papers are, I find, far higher than the editors of those dailies presume.

And allow me to amend Howard W. Blakeslee's earlier contention that scientists will get more newspaper attention by using emotion-laden phraseology (SCIENCE, June 14, p. 591). Rather, scientists will keep the respectful attention of the general public (1) by always presenting their ideas clearly, and (2) by pointing to the significance of their work, with an evaluation *ad hominem* where at all possible.

MYRON WEISS

TIME, THE WEEKLY
NEWSMAGAZINE,
NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

DE GENERATIONE

A History of Embryology. By JOSEPH NEEDHAM, Sc.D. Cambridge, at the University Press: New York, The Macmillan Company, 1934. xviii + 274 pp. 40 figs. Price, $4.00.

THIS is a second edition, somewhat enlarged and revised, of the author's historical introduction to his 3-volume "Chemical Embryology" of 1931. The detached chapters, at a lower price, are thus more readily available, which is fortunate, for they make a very serviceable book. Unauspiciously it begins with "Embryology in Antiquity: I. Indian Antiquity"—two pages illustrated solely by the nondescript painting on a recent New Guinea door (de Clercq, 1893). The main text is here unchanged, but footnotes and references have been added. Dr. Needham's reading-list, at the end of the volume, is a long one (35 pages) and there are few historians who will not find in it new and enticing titles. "Egyptian Antiquity" follows, with added material. There are figures of an ancient standard, borne before the king in his jubilee festival, representing no one knows what. But Seligman and Murray consider this bilobed object, with its cord or streamer, to be a perfect image of an afterbirth. Folklore on that topic—"reverence for the umbilical cord"—is followed by an account of primitive incubators, with "a very beautiful hymn" by a king of Egypt on the hatching of the bird. "Hellenic Antiquity" is almost as briefly considered, after which the reader encounters the heading, already contradicted, "Hippocrates: the Beginning of Observation."

Dr. Bruno Bloch in his scholarly essay "Die ge-