open to competition for work in laryngology and rhinology. The award was established by the late Dr. William E. Casselberry, Chicago, who left a fund to the association, the interest from which was to be awarded in sums of $500 or less for a prize award, a decoration or the expense for original investigation in laryngology and rhinology. Theses or reports of work must be in the hands of Dr. Babbitt, 1912 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, before February 1 of any given year.

DISCUSSION

GERMAN PERIODICALS AND SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

IT has now been possible to study carefully what has been accomplished in regard to reductions in prices for current German medical and biological periodicals. For the year 1934 reductions in price made by the firm of Julius Springer amounted to RM 4,079.10 and from other firms RM 980.30, making a total of RM 5,059.40 saved for the year 1934, as compared with 1932 prices.

It is unfortunate that the relation of the American dollar to foreign currencies has offset, to a great degree, the benefits which libraries should derive from the substantial decrease in prices. As reported by Mr. Charles H. Brown,[1] the German Government is recognizing this difficulty and has announced an export price reduction of 25 per cent. It is evident that the German publishers and the German Government are earnestly cooperating in trying to solve this very difficult problem; they are to be congratulated, and librarians and scientists throughout the world deeply appreciate their efforts.

As many scientists and librarians had pointed out the desirability of a per-page decrease in price, as well as a decrease in total price, an analysis of 25 German journals was made in which the pages that had appeared in 1932 and 1934 were counted and compared with the prices for these years in order to determine just what had been accomplished in this regard. The analysis showed that the reduction in the number of pages amounted to 48.45 per cent.; the reduction in cost 44.28 per cent. The average decrease in the number of pages exceeded the reduction in cost by 4.17 per cent. An analysis made in regard to the actual per-page cost for these 25 journals showed that in 1932 the average cost per page was 11.6 pfennigs, in 1934 it was 12.5 pfennigs, an increase of 7.7 per cent. in per-page cost.

Twenty-five American, 25 French and 25 British journals, covering approximately the same subjects as the German journals, were analyzed in the same way. Calculations were made on the lowest value of each currency for the year 1934 in relation to the American dollar. The average cost per page for the German was found to be 4.5 cents, for the British 1.5 cents, for the French 0.8 cents and for the American 0.7 cents. If the American journals are excluded from the comparison in order to eliminate the factor of the low rate of the American dollar in relation to foreign currencies, it is still obvious that the United States paid in 1934 an average of more than four times as much for German journals per page as for comparable French and British journals.

While there has not been any per-page reduction in price, the fact that page reduction and price reduction have so closely paralleled each other is hopeful for the future. The changes during a period of readjustment such as the publishers have had to face, especially possible changes in personnel and overhead, might represent the difference. It is evident that the conditions governing the publication of scientific literature in Germany differ from those obtaining in other countries. It is to be hoped that the German Government, cooperating with German scientists and publishers, will, in their study of the situation, be able to find some method whereby valuable scientific contributions in the German language can be furnished the scientific world at prices more nearly in line with those of other countries.

At the meeting of the Medical Library Association, June 18, 1935, in Rochester, New York, the following resolution was adopted:

1. Be it resolved: that the Medical Library Association express appreciation to the German publishers for the reductions in 1934 in the price of medical and biological periodicals as well as appreciation of the statement from the German governmental authorities made to the 2nd International Congress held in Madrid, May, 1935, regarding a reduction in export prices, designed to help foreign libraries overcome the difficulties caused by unstabilized currencies. It is hoped that this plan when definitely announced will assist medical libraries to continue their subscriptions to German periodicals.

2. The Medical Library Association desires to express satisfaction that world-wide interest in the situation has led to the formation of a Special Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations to study the problems concerning the publication of books and periodicals and their cost, and further wishes to express confidence to this Committee in its purpose and plans for work and study.

[1] SCIENCE, n. s., 82: 2115, 38.

3. Be it further resolved: that the Medical Library Association feels it imperative to draw attention to the fact that, unless further reductions in the prices of German periodicals are made so that these prices are more in line with those of other countries, many libraries will be compelled on economic grounds to cancel subscriptions. It is also the opinion of this Association that reductions in price should not be dependent on a reduction of volume content alone. The fact is also deplored that the advance list of maximum prices for 1935 showed, in the case of several journals of great importance to medical libraries, a substantial increase in price as compared with 1934.

4. Be it further resolved: that, while the Medical Library Association realizes that the announcement of a maximum yearly price is a distinct gain, the desired goal is a fixed yearly price for periodicals, announced in advance.

At the meeting of the second International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography held in Spain from May 20 to 30, the question of the over-production of literature in periodicals from the point of view of libraries was taken up. The papers presented and the discussions during the meeting showed that there is undoubtedly an over-production in material appearing in the scientific journals of practically all countries, and certain factors were pointed out as contributing causes. My paper surveying the present status of the publication of literature in the medical and biological sciences, which was read before the International Congress, showed an approximate total of 2,221 periodicals current to-day in these sciences. There are 511 periodicals published currently in the United States, 288 in Germany, 248 in France, 198 in Italy, 137 in the British Isles, 81 in Russia, 62 in Spain and 59 in the Scandinavian countries. Certain unfortunate factors concerned in the problem of the publication of medical and biological literature were also discussed. The detailed report of the Committee on Periodicals and Serial Publications, Medical Library Association, of which Janet Doe, C. F. Wylde and S. V. Larkey are members, will appear in the official publication of the second International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography, and the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association,* n.s., V. 24.

EILEEN R. CUNNINGHAM,
Chairman

THE TIME TO CUT DANDELIONS

THE spring of 1935 was especially favorable to dandelions, and in many cases they must have outstripped the lawn mower, for a number of people asked me whether dandelion heads cut off in full flower would produce viable seeds. Nobody seemed to know the answer, so it was thought desirable to make some tests to determine the facts. Accordingly, heads of this plant were cut off, leaving peduncles about 5 cm long on them. Heads were chosen in the following stages of development: 1. Almost ready to open. 2. Flowers fully open. 3. Heads just closed and corollas withering. 4. Heads fully closed and all corollas withered. 5. Corollas falling.

To allow rather better chances of development than are given on the average lawn, the heads were laid on sphagnum, which was kept moist. Here they were kept until they had dried. Examination showed them in the following conditions: 1. Achenes shriveled, no development of pappus or of beak of achene supporting pappus. Corollas withered but not abscissed. 2. Achenes shriveled. Corollas abscissed. Beaks of achenes from 2 to 2.5 mm long. 3. Achenes less shriveled than in Lot 2 but not normal in appearance. Beaks from 2 to 3 mm long. Corollas abscissed. 4. Achenes little shriveled. Corollas abscissed. Beaks from 2.5 to 3.5 mm long. 5. Achenes not shriveled. Corollas abscissed. Beaks from 3 to 4 mm long. Pappus expanded to form a small head, much more touseled than in normal ones.

The achenes were removed from the heads of each lot and put on moist filter paper to germinate. One lot was kept in the light and another in the dark. After 10 days all the achenes were found to have decayed. None showed any sign of normal embryos when they were dissected.

Dissection of achenes of normal heads, from the flowers of which all the corollas had abscissed, and in which the pappus was extended out almost to the involucre tips, showed that the embryos were very small. Many were minute and the largest were not more than one fifth full size. Apparently then, until the white of the dandelion pappus begins to extend beyond the green involucre tips, the heads may be cut and allowed to dry on the lawn without any danger of spreading the weed.

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IODIZED SALT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

IN the year 1833 there appeared an article by the French chemist, Boussingault,[1] in which he described the value of iodized salt in the prevention of goiter.

This brilliant young French chemist, Boussingault, who later distinguished himself in the field of biochemistry, was born in Paris in 1802. As a young man he was sent to South America by an English mining firm. While studying geological structures at various altitudes, he was surprised at the huge goiters in some villages and the absence of this affliction in others. He analyzed the salt consumed in various places and

[1] M. Boussingault, *Ann. de Chem. et de Phys.*, 54: 163–177, 1833.