

determine the genus; but from the recognizable fragments found, it appears to be a member of the Hadrosauridae, a "duck-billed" or Trachodont-like form.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF RULES OF NOMENCLATURE IN THE CASE OF BOHADSCH, 1761

THE undersigned invites the attention of the zoologi-

cal profession to the fact that application has been made to the International Commission on Nomenclature to suspend the Rules in Bohadsch 1761, "De Quibusdam Animalibus Marinis" and its translation 1776, on the ground that the application of the rules in these cases will produce greater confusion than uniformity.

Zoologists interested in this case, for or against suspension, are invited to present their views to the commission.

C. W. STILES,
Acting Secretary

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

THE DIARY OF ROBERT HOOKE

The Diary of Robert Hooke, M.A., M.D., F.R.S. 1672-1680. Transcribed from the original in the possession of the Corporation of the City of London (Guildhall Library). Edited by HENRY W. ROBINSON, librarian of the Royal Society, and WALTER ADAMS, B.A. With a Foreword by SIR FREDERICK GOWLAND HOPKINS, O.M., president of the Royal Society. pp. xxviii + 527, 8 pls., 3 figs. in text. Taylor and Francis, London, 1935. 21 shillings.

THIS diary was published within a few days of the tercentenary of the birth of its famous writer, who lived in a time fertile in intellectual developments and who himself was a part of the illumination of that brilliant period in the history of scientific accomplishments of the English people.

Robert Hooke (1635-1703) had unusual inventiveness and mechanical skill and was an observer of unusual accuracy and power of interpretation. He also had a penchant for experimentation and utilized his inventive faculties in the perfecting of scientific instruments. He writes quaintly of the construction of such instruments and their subsequent use in observations on nature, as follows: "I design alwayes to make them follow each other in turn, and as 'twere to interweave them, being apart but like the Warp or Woof before contexture, unfit either to clothe or adorn the Body of Philosophy."

His inventions include the spring balance in watches, the anchor escapement, the wheel barometer, the improvements in the air pump, the telescope and the microscope. He formulated Hooke's Law in mechanics, namely, that strain is proportional to the stress producing it within elastic limits. He introduced freezing-point as zero on the scale of the thermometer. He discovered the two stars in Orion's belt. His "Micrographia" revealed the cellular structure of plants, and to him is due the first glimmer of the cell theory, although he did not state this generaliza-

tion or realize what his own accurate figures fore shadowed. His theories of light and of combustion were in line with modern hypotheses. Sir F. G. Hopkins in his "Foreword" supports the view that had Hooke known more mathematics he even might have forestalled Newton in his understanding of universal gravitation. Hooke's mind was analytical and his clarity of thinking placed his "Micrographia" and his "Cutlerian Lectures" among the foremost classics of scientific literature.

Leeuwenhoek was an industrious amateur, whose indomitable curiosity fired his zeal and whose pride urged him into undeserved notoriety. His discoveries were assembled higgledy-piggledy, without significant relations, and his secrets were guarded jealously. Hooke, on the other hand, associated himself with other brilliant minds, and his "Micrographia" reflects the powers both of analysis and of synthesis. He was not revealing an *arcantum* but was writing a logical account of a new field of knowledge.

The recognition which Hooke received at the hands of his associates is indicative of his intellectual power and of the confidence of his colleagues in his skill and judgment. In 1662, the second year after the foundation of the Royal Society of London, he was made its "Curator of Experiments," a post held throughout his life. This led to his contributing continuously to the meetings of the society. In 1663 he was made a fellow, and, succeeding Oldenburg in 1677, he was its secretary to 1682. He edited the society's "Philosophical Collections." The "Diary" was given in 1708 to Richard Waller, who then was secretary of the Royal Society, and who appended this note:

Memorandum: Mr. Dillon the husband of Dr. Hookes Neice who was Administratrix to Dr. Hook who dyed without a Will gave mee this MSS about December in the year 1708. he having found it amongst Dr. Hooks Remains. to whome and to his Wife I am obliged for all the papers I had put into my hands of that great genius