It ought not to be necessary to remind workers and institutions of science that they belong to a highly favored group: they are allowed to work at what pleases them; they are not subject to the time clock; their incomes enable them to live in comfort; and they have no overhead of rent, light, heat, electricity, supplies and clerical or technical assistance to earn before paying salaries. Yet when the suggestion is made that they pay for the means of dissemination of the work done under their auspices the air is rent with cries of anguish.

The benefits might be several if institutions and workers paid for publication of their effusions: subscription costs could be cut and the individual worker could subscribe to more journals and thus increase his usefulness; fewer papers would be written; the papers would be better written and prepared; papers would be shorter when brevity was adequate for exposition and longer when space was needed for clarity; and the literature could carry all necessary tabulations of raw data, while many unnecessary tables, charts and diagrams would be omitted.

To the idea there can be no objection raised which will withstand the cold light of logic—and scientists should be logical.

What more needs be written save that this is no new procedure but one which was generally employed before publication of scientific work became commercialized.

If scientific societies, journal organizations, and the like have the courage to act according to these basic principles, all the difficulties which to-day beset the publication of scientific work and over which there is so much avid discussion will be dissolved, and science will be the better for it.

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FELLOWSHIPS IN HUMAN BIOLOGY

THROUGH the generosity of an anonymous donor there are available a limited number of fellowships for the current academic year in the department of biology of the School of Hygiene and Public Health of The Johns Hopkins University. They are intended for persons interested in problems of human biology. One, carrying a stipend of $1,200, is open only to a worker who has already taken the doctorate. Others with smaller stipends are open to graduate students who have not yet taken the degree.

Applications setting forth the candidate's training, experience and research interests, as well as any letters in support of the application, should be sent promptly to the undersigned at the address above.

RAYMOND PEARL
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

CURRENT TRENDS IN GEOGRAPHY

Elements of Geography. By VERNOR C. FINCH and GLENN T. TREWARTHA. McGraw-Hill Book Company, N. Y. 782 pp. 399 illus. 9 plates. 1936. $4.00.

An Outline of Geography. By PRESTON E. JAMES. Ginn and Company, Boston. 475 pp. 182 illus. 24 plates. 1935. $3.00.

Geography, an Introduction to Human Ecology. By C. LANGDON WHITE and GEORGE T. RENNER. D. Appleton-Century Company, N. Y. 790 pp. 333 illus. 1936. $4.00.

Fundamentals of Economic Geography. By NELS A. BENGTSON and WILLEM VAN ROYEN. Prentice Hall, Inc., N. Y. 802 pp. 300 illus. 1935. $4.25.

THE appearance within a year of four excellent college texts in geography, each distinct in treatment and among the best of their type which have yet been written, reflects the vitality of this old and yet very new field. Geography's recognition as an essential college subject has largely developed since the war. To-day almost every prominent central and western university includes a department, although its introduction along the Atlantic seaboard has been less rapid. In European universities it is even more widespread than in this country. The increasingly scholarly character of the subject, as illustrated in these stimulating volumes, should hasten its spread.

In order to appreciate the divergent approach to the first course in college geography, it may be helpful to summarize the historical preface of Finch and Trewartha. In ancient Greece, where geography had its beginnings, it embraced two distinct fields; the description of places and the understanding of a miscellaneous variety of natural phenomena, such as weather, earthquakes, rivers and tides. Until the middle of the nineteenth century this dual interest continued to define the field. Within recent years, four distinct developments have occurred. In the first place, geography has been relieved of the various divisions of natural science which have assumed their independent place as geology, meteorology, etc. With this narrowing of its physical field, the study of land forms received added attention. The four-fold field of physiography, embracing geomorphology or the study of land forms proper, meteorology, oceanogra-