and the littoral, sublittoral, profundal and abyssal benthos.

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FOOD OF MUD-DWELLERS

IN reply to Dr. Robert T. Morris's request for an adjective to define food derived from the top layer of mud, I submit *acropelotic* (ἄκρος, top; πηλός, mud).

AGNES DE SALES
COLLEGE OF MT. ST. JOSEPH-ON-THE-OHIO

AN interesting point in ecology is raised by Dr. R. T. Morris in SCIENCE (84: 291, 1936) regarding a technical term descriptive of the nature of the food of mud-dwelling organisms. It may be suggested that while the food-stuff is of detrital origin, the food supply considered as their source of energy might be characterized as ilyodynic.

Since the above was written, an excellent choice of terms has been submitted by Professor Glover M. Allen (SCIENCE, 84: 374). The word now introduced, though partly redundant, may perhaps be allowed to stand for final selection.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE CANCER SYMPOSIUM OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES SECTION

THE Section on Medical Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has arranged for the Christmas meetings a symposium on cancer consisting of a series of seven sessions to be held from Tuesday to Friday, December 29 to January 1, inclusive. The first session, which will be held on Tuesday morning, will be devoted to questions concerning radiation, while the afternoon session will be devoted to various aspects of the relationship of hereditary and constitutional factors to the occurrence of tumorous growth. The two sessions on Wednesday will be concerned with the induction, stimulation and inhibition of tumors. This will involve a consideration of the carcinogenic substances, the relationship of the sex hormones and the significance of viruses and of inhibitory substances to the etiology and development of tumors. On Thursday morning tissue culture work in connection with cancer will be discussed and the metabolism of cancerous tissue will be considered. In addition to these sessions, there will be two general lectures, one on Thursday afternoon and one on Friday, which will take up certain more general aspects of the cancer problem. The section is anxious to make this as worth while a symposium as possible and has brought together the leaders in the various fields. In so doing it hopes that it will call attention to the fundamental work that is going on in this country in the investigation of this serious problem and will afford an opportunity for an authoritative survey of the actual status of this field.

The session on radiation will be opened by Dr. Tuve, of the Terrestrial Magnetism Laboratory, Carnegie Institution, who will review for the group the artificial sources of high energy radiations and their applications from a purely physics standpoint. This will be followed by papers by Dr. Lauriston S. Taylor, of the United States Bureau of Standards, who will compare the methods of determining the quality of x-rays, and Dr. G. Failla, of Memorial Hospital, New York City, who will discuss some biophysical aspects of radiation therapy. A comparison of the effects of x-ray and neutrons on normal and neoplastic tissue will then be made by Dr. John H. Lawrence, of Yale University. The effect of alpha particles and their relationship to the effect of neutrons will next be discussed by Dr. Raymond E. Zirkle, of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Stafford L. Warren, of the University of Rochester, will then present his work on the combined effects of roentgen-radiation and fever upon malignant tissues. The session will be brought to a close by Dr. Robley Evans, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who will report on the recent progress in the study of radium poisoning. It might be mentioned that the Medical Sciences Section has cooperated with the American Physics Society and the Section on Physics in the arrangement of the days for their respective symposia. The latter organizations are planning a series of papers on radiation on Monday, taking up the more physical aspects of radiation, while the Medical Sciences Section in its radiation session will take up mainly the biological aspects of radiation, except for the orientation paper by Dr. Tuve, which in a sense will form some continuity between the two programs. The combined program should present a very thorough survey of the newer developments in the field of radiation.

The session in the afternoon will present a series of papers on a variety of aspects of heredity and constitutional factors in their relation to tumorous growths. Such considerations as the respective rôles of heredity and somatic mutation in the etiology of