

for the students. When the apparatus was handed in the student would also submit a diagram and a report on how he mastered the problem and what difficulties he encountered in the construction. The application of the apparatus was left for laboratory experimentation.

Comments like these were to be found in the student reports: "I really enjoyed making the apparatus, since it provided enjoyment and a realization that the finished product was of my creation and was to be used for the benefit of the present and future psychology classes."

Again, the student would report difficulty in construction and how he solved the problem: "The difficulty I encountered was the method of raising and lowering the drop (of the tachistoscope), which I finally solved by using the strings as I explained."

By this means the students gained insight into the purpose of laboratory apparatus. As well, the effect on the mind of the student and upon the learning activity as a whole was a highly desirable one. The students felt an intimate acquaintance if not kinship in using apparatus which they constructed and knew how to use.

Even if I had all the laboratory apparatus at my disposal I would still favor a plan whereby the apparatus should be disassembled in order to allow the students to reassemble the parts for each experiment.

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MICROPHOTOGRAPHS AND PHOTOMICROGRAPHS

IN regard to the controversy over the correct usage of "microphotograph" and "photomicrograph," I have found the following notation in the Oxford Dictionary (1928), under Photomicrograph: "In 1858 G. Shadbolt in 'Sutton's photographic notes' says: 'The word microphotograph originated, I believe, with myself and is applied, I think correctly, to very small photographs,

not to photographs of very small objects which would more correctly be photomicrographs.'" However, by 1860 microphotograph was used incorrectly (according to the Oxford Dictionary) and since then seems to have been used rather loosely by all.

Since it would seem that the originator of a word should have the authority to interpret its meaning, it follows that microphotograph should indicate a microscopic photograph, and photomicrograph a photograph of a microscopic object.

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SCRIPTA MATHEMATICA

THE article "Dinner of the Society of Friends of *Scripta Mathematica*" (SCIENCE, No. 2212, p. 492) contains several inaccuracies due to errors inadvertently committed in the office of Scripta.

(1) The dinner was held in honor of Professors Eric Temple Bell, Cassius Jackson Keyser, David Eugene Smith and Mr. M. Lincoln Schuster for their contributions to public enlightenment regarding mathematics as an essential means to general culture. The opening address was made by Professor William P. Montague.

(2) *Scripta Mathematica* is a quarterly journal devoted to history and philosophy of mathematics published by Yeshiva College, and is edited by Jekuthiel Ginsburg with the cooperation of Raymond Clare Archibald, Adolph Frankel, Sir Thomas Little Heath, Louis Charles Karpinski, Cassius Jackson Keyser, Gino Loria, Vera Sanford, Joseph J. Schwartz, Lao Genevra Simons and David Eugene Smith.

(3) Among the Scripta publications in preparation are a volume entitled "Fabre and Mathematics," by Professor Lao G. Simons, and a volume entitled "Forum Lectures," being addresses given before the Forum of *Scripta Mathematica* by Professors Cassius Jackson Keyser, David Eugene Smith, Edward Kasner and Walter Rautenstrauch.

JEKUTHIEL GINSBURG

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

REMINISCENCES OF J. J. THOMSON

Recollections and Reflections. By SIR J. J. THOMSON. New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. v + 451. \$4.00. 1937.

OF the many delightful characteristics of this most fascinating book, not the least is inherent in the simplicity and informal type of presentation. In many cases the author writes as though he were speaking to us, and we are brought into a very close personal touch with those situations which have marked the milestones in his life. When he informs us that "the examination

for the Mathematical Tripos was an arduous, anxious, and very uncomfortable experience," and that it was "held in a room in which there were no heating appliances of any kind," and as we follow him through the description of the examination, we find ourselves transported in mind through more than half a century, and feel a real sympathy with that young man about to take the examination which means so much in his life. We are worried when we read that he suffers an attack of insomnia five days before the examination. We sincerely hope he will recover. On the morning of the examination we are quite nervous, but are relieved