are three pairs in the oogonium, spermatogonium and fertilized egg, and three tetrads or dyads in the maturation divisions of the egg and sperm. In the 1934 note it was suggested that this form might be called *Ascaris megalocephala trivalens,* and might be a case of polyploidy; or perhaps should be considered more primitive than *bivalens* or *univalens,* as the Mongolian pony (the common horse in China) is a primitive animal. From this new and abundant material I have noticed certain morphological differences in size and shape which make me wonder whether its relationship to *megalocephala* may not be quite so close. Diminution takes place in the somatic cells, as in the classical Ascaris, but it looks as though the somatic chromosome number may be less.

All these points will be worked out carefully and published with drawings in a later number of the *Peking Natural History Bulletin* within this year.

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IN RE HYPOTHECATE

THE erroneous use of "hypothecate" is justly condemned in your issue of June 25 by Professor A. V. Hill. The error is an instance of the common confusion of two words somewhat similar in sound but differing in meaning. The sentence criticized read, "Each hypothecated element in the nerve," etc. "Hypothetical" was evidently what the writer intended. It is a useful word, somewhat more specific than "assumed," which Dr. Hill recommends, since it implies an assumption made in accordance with a previously stated hypothesis. So in banishing "hypothecated" in its erroneous sense, let us not dismiss with it the useful words "hypothetical" and "hypothesized."

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THE interest constantly shown by SCIENCE in matters of diction prompts this note. In regard to the misuse of the word "hypothecate" in the sense of "assume," to which A. V. Hill takes justifiable exception in your issue of June 25, I would call attention to the word "hypothesize," which has exactly the sense and sound desired by many authors in certain cases and which is in good standing in the dictionaries. Perhaps, though, the more common verb *postulate* would serve in such cases equally well.

In your next *index expurgatorius* please put a lasting curse on the following atrocities: "Spacial" (for spatial); "Causal" (in the sense of *causative*); "Humans" (for human beings); "Do an experiment on. . . ."

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

THE eighteenth annual general assembly of the American Geophysical Union and the meetings of its seven sections were held from April 28 to 30, 1937, at Washington, D. C., in the buildings of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, the Smithsonian Institution and the U. S. Geological Survey.

The scientific session of the general assembly was devoted to a symposium on theoretical and observational considerations of importance to further studies of the depths of the earth. Five formal papers presented were: "On the Estimation of Temperatures at Moderate Depths in the Crust of the Earth," by C. E. Van Orstrand; "The External Gravity-Field and the Interior of the Earth," by W. D. Lambert; "Deep-Focus Earthquakes and Their Implications," by J. B. Macelwane; "The Earth's Interior as Inferred from Terrestrial Magnetism," by A. G. McNish; "The Behavior of Matter under Extreme Conditions," by P. W. Bridgman. After an extended discussion, the symposium was summarized by L. H. Adams. Detailed reports were received from two special committees, namely, (1) on geophysical and geological study of oceanic basins and (2) on geophysical and geological study of continents.

Ten resolutions were adopted. Two of these expressed thanks for privileges extended by the Smithsonian Institution and by the U. S. Geological Survey. The importance of the United States time-signals for the economical and efficient continuation of many scientific projects of a geophysical nature was emphasized, with expressions of appreciation for that service to the Naval Observatory and the Bureau of Navigation of the United States Navy. Another resolution called attention to the splendid cooperation of the Bell Telephone Laboratories in lending its improved crystal-chronometer for the recent gravity-at-sea expedition; this crystal-chronometer greatly increased the precision obtained.

The results of the third expedition for gravity-work at sea by the United States Navy during September, 1936, to January, 1937, in cooperation with the union and other organizations, form an invaluable contribution to the investigation of oceanic areas; the union expressed the hope that the United States Navy would continue to promote such important work whenever