

tion of a second a feeble blue light with a large component of invisible ultra-violet radiation is generated inside the tube. This radiation strikes the fluorescent coating and is re-radiated in the visible range of the spectrum.

ITEMS

ISOLATION of chemically pure crystals of vitamin B₆ was reported by Dr. Paul György, of the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University, to the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society. This part of the vitamin B complex cures a skin disease in young rats which occurs when the animals eat a diet lacking in vitamin B₆.

A REVISED circular containing computations and "corrections" that must be made in computing the heating value of different kinds of fuel gases has been issued by the National Bureau of Standards. Revised by E. R. Weaver, chief of the gas chemistry section of the bureau, the circular contains information making it conveniently applicable to a wider range of compositions of gases and conditions of testing. In issuing the circular, the bureau calls attention to the importance of the heating value of fuel gas, as that is an important factor in determining its usefulness.

"VEGETABLE SHEEP"—plants covered so thickly with long, white-woolly leaves that from a distance they look like grazing sheep on the hillside—are the newest addi-

tions to botanical knowledge at the U. S. National Herbarium. They are described through the agency of the Smithsonian Institution by Dr. S. F. Blake, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The plants belong to the aster family, and come from the Santa Marta Mountains in Colombia, South America. The only "vegetable sheep" hitherto known were from New Zealand. Another strangely shaped plant from the Santa Marta Mountains is known as the "monk plant"; at a little distance, especially through a light fog, a group of them looks like an assembly of robed priests.

NORTH met South in an ancient cavern death-trap, where Ice-Age beasts perished and left their bones in great masses, near the site of the present mountain city of Cumberland, Md., as shown by investigations by workers of the Smithsonian Institution. Remains of northern creatures like wolverine and marten are mingled with those of southern animals like tapir and alligator. The West is represented with fossils of such prairie or plains animals as wild horses and coyotes. Notable were some enormous cats, as big as lions or tigers, and much larger than any modern representative of their tribe in the Western Hemisphere. Dr. C. Lewis Gazin, paleontologist of the Smithsonian Institution, interprets the strange intermingling as meaning that the natural trap stood open over a good many thousands of years, while changes in climate influenced shifts in types of animal population.

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