of the American Academy in this city, a short time since, at which Governour Everett presided, to discuss the propriety of the measure, and a committee was appointed to consult with the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia; and thus the lines are laid, which we fervently hope will speedily eventuate in the establishment of a national association for the promotion of the physical sciences—founded in motives as noble and acceptable to the world as were those which originated the association now existing in England, the organization of which constitutes a new era in the history of that nation. It is to be deplored that our Medical Society did not secure to itself, when the opportunity presented, the honour of having carried into effect this excellent proposition, which might have been done with most perfect ease, and consistently, too, with its character of a scientifick body. For it is evident that practical and enlightened physicians, in all countries, are among the most zealous cultivators of learning and science; and we noticed, upon the occasion alluded to, that of the twenty-seven individuals present, thirteen were members of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOOSE LAKE, CALIFORNIA, METEORITE

THROUGH the cooperation of several of the officers and the fellows of the Society for Research on Meteorites, namely, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Nininger, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History and the American Meteorite Laboratory, Denver, Professor Earle G. Linsley, of the Chabot Observatory and Mills College, Oakland, Calif., Dr. Robert W. Webb, of the Department of Geology of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the writer, the largest meteorite discovered up to date in the state of California and probably the fifth largest known to have fallen in the United States, has recently been identified and has just been recovered. The meteorite, which is an iron or siderite, was found on October 13, 1938, by Messrs. Joseph Secco, Clarence A. Schmidt and Ira Iverson, of Oakland, Calif., while hunting deer at a place in northern Modoc County, about two miles west of the western shore of Goose Lake and 1¼ miles south of the California-Oregon state line (coordinates approximately, longitude W. 120° 32′ .5, latitude N. 41° 58′ .6). The meteorite was removed from the place of fall on May 3 and 4, 1939, by a party of which the aforementioned scientists were members. Since the specimen was located in the Modoc National Forest, it is the property of the Smithsonian Institution and the United States National Museum; however, through the kindness of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, the assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the body will be on exhibition at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco until the conclusion of the fair.

The over-all dimensions of the meteorite, which is a very irregular mass, deeply pitted, perforated and unoriented, and which resembles in shape nothing more than a gigantic molar tooth, are 3 feet 10 inches × 2 feet 4½ inches × 1 foot 8 inches. The measured weight is 2,573 pounds. Etching the polished surface of a small fragment with dilute nitric acid revealed the characteristic Widmanstätten figures, which indicate that the specimen is a medium octahedrite. The more weathered parts of the meteorite are maroon, while the portions which have lain near or in contact with the soil are cinnamon-brown or rusty. Because all the original fusion crust is missing, we conclude that the fall occurred probably many years ago. The meteorite lay in the center of an almost circular, saucer-like depression or "crater," about five feet in diameter and one foot deep. This formation was the only visible evidence, if evidence it was, of the impact of the body with the ground. As no postoffice is situated within a radius of several miles of the spot where the meteorite was discovered, and it was not near any well-known geographical feature other than Goose Lake, it shall be called the Goose Lake, Modoc County, Calif., meteorite.

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A PARASITE OF THE PUERTO RICAN MOLE-CRICKET

To the record of successful establishments in Puerto Rico of predators attacking insect pests, such as that of the giant Surinam toad, *Bufo marinus* L., largely feeding on native species of May beetles, and of Australian lady-beetles, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulsant attacking exposed mealybugs, and *Rodolia* (*Vedalia*) *cardinalis* Mulsant attacking cottony cushion scale, may now be added that of a large wasp, *Larra americana* Saussure, a specific parasite of the changa, (or Puerto Rican mole-cricket, *Scapteriscus vicinus* Scudder).

The changa is not native to Puerto Rico, but occurs throughout most of tropical South America, and is presumably so destructively abundant in Puerto Rico, attacking tobacco, vegetable crops and even sugar-cane in sandy soils, because of the absence here of its natural enemies. Its parasite, *Larra americana,* occurs most conveniently for collection and shipment by airplane at Belem, Pará, Brazil. A successful method of shipping the live wasps, by including with them a screened cage of live parasitized mole-crickets, has been briefly reported,[1] as well as a more extended account of the entire project up to February, 1938.[2] Whether including live parasitized changas with each sending of the wasps is really the reason why the latter remain alive in captivity was not determined by later experiments, but out of 420 wasps sent thus from Belem in May and

[1] SCIENCE, 87: 355, 1938.
[2] *Jour. Agr. Univ. Puerto Rico,* 22: 193–218, 1938.