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.

June of 1938, 373 arrived alive in Puerto Rico. Some of these wasps were released immediately, but others were used for oviposition on mole-crickets collected in Puerto Rico, and these, together with the parasitized changas which had accompanied the wasps, were released in Puerto Rico to the number of 550. Releases were made in a sandy region near Rio Piedras, and in a similar region near Isabela, in both of which places changas were abundant, and also the plants which the wasps frequent to obtain nectar.

At the end of the rainy season in Puerto Rico, in mid-January, 1939, *Larra* wasps were seen in considerable abundance both at Rio Piedras and at Isabela. These wasps could not possibly be any of those originally released, for the life of the insect is measured by weeks; thus they represent descendants of those released in May and June. Their presence indicates that *Larra* has successfully lived through the coldest and wettest as well as the hottest weather normally experienced in Puerto Rico, and may be considered as established at two localities here. How soon *Larra* will begin to spread to other parts of the island, where conditions are possibly somewhat less favorable, and how soon it will result in a marked decrease in changa injury, can not now be predicted, but at least its establishment in two widely separated regions marks one more step in the solution of the problem of control of the changa by natural means.

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OVUM CULTURE

IN certain press reports of a recent paper on meiosis in explanted human ovarian ova the statement has appeared that I plan to carry on this work to the extent of attempting to discover if human offspring can be produced by the methods we employ in ovum culture. This statement is incorrect. My work with human ova ended with these studies of maturation, and I have no intention whatsoever of continuing them.

GREGORY PINCUS
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LECTURERS IN GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

AT the recent annual meeting of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council the suggestion was made that university departments in various parts of the country may be interested in knowing when distinguished foreign geologists and geographers are available for special lectures. The division chairman was requested to organize a sort of information bureau for this purpose. Every year some scientists in these fields visit this country. At the present time a number of such scientists are here as refugees from foreign countries.

After some exchange of information on the subject it may be possible to arrange lecture tours, planned cooperatively by neighboring universities and colleges in such a way as to reduce to a minimum the cost involved for each institution. As a first step in organizing the required information, those who know of men suitable and available for such lectures are requested to send to the undersigned the names and addresses of the men, together with pertinent data regarding their careers and publications. When sufficient information has been brought together, a means for its publication will be found.

The ability of each prospective lecturer to speak clear English is of course an important requisite. It is requested that this point be given particular attention in all information that is furnished.

The present college year is near its close. However, information furnished during the summer may make possible the institution of the plan early next fall.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

SIGMA PI SIGMA CONVENTION

THE fourth national convention of Sigma Pi Sigma, physics honor society, was held from April 6 to 8 at the Ohio State University. One hundred and thirty-two guests and delegates from twenty-eight chapters were registered. The convention program included inspection tours of research activities at the university and the Perkins Astronomical Observatory, scientific addresses and demonstration lectures, business sessions and social events. The presidential address by Dr. R. C. Colwell, of West Virginia University, on "Electromagnetic Waves and Radio Signals" described his own and other researches on ionizing layers in the atmosphere. Mr. Royal Weller, of the Ohio State University, presented a demonstration lecture of novel experiments in general physics. At the banquet the speakers were Dr. Alpheus W. Smith, head of the physics department at Ohio State, Dr. W. H. Bennett, director of research at the Electronic Research Corporation, Newark, Ohio, and Dr. H. W. Russell, director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. The main convention open meeting was addressed by Dr. Paul E. Klopsteg, president of the Central Scientific Company, following his reception into the society as an honorary member. His address on "Archery: A Physicists' Hobby" was illustrated by lantern slides