The case report of J. A., who skinned the beaver, is interesting. At request of Mr. E. he looked over the beaver situation early in the fall of 1938 on West Pass Creek, Sheridan County, Wyoming. Beaver had put in many caches for the winter and prospects looked good for trapping. He worked as a game warden the first three months of 1939. Went to Pass Creek on April 1, and noticed many untouched caches. Found 21 dead beaver both young and old in one and one-half miles of creek, and believed many more died which he did not find; most of them dead for two months. Dead beaver were also found on East Pass Creek, and from an Indian he learned that beaver had died on Lodge Grass Creek, six or eight years ago, from unknown cause. Heard also of dead beaver on Little Horn River and on Goose Creek. On May 20, the beaver trapper wrote: "Was sick in bed with a high fever immediately following the beaver trapping. Then for a long time felt logy and every move cost a great effort. Only now have I begun to feel natural. Had several boils at the time, and what made me think it was the same malady as the beaver was a gathering under the arm pit. But it receded. A number of these beaver had a pus sac in the same place."

At the writer's suggestion a blood sample was taken on July 12 by Dr. Herbert L. Harvey, of Casper, Wyoming, and forwarded to Dr. R. R. Parker, Director, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana. Dr. Parker's report follows:

Antigen-Bacterium tularense	Serum dilutions						
	1 : 10	1 : 20	1 : 40	1 : 80	1 : 160	1 : 320	1 : 640	1 : 1280
B. Tul. ...	4	4	4	4	4	2	..	

4 + = 75 to 100 per cent. agglutination.
2 + = 25 to 50 per cent. agglutination.
Comment: Blood sample from J. A. agglutinates *Bacterium tularense* at a titer of 1 : 640.

The source of infection is uncertain. However, the following facts are interesting. In response to an inquiry on May 31, 1939, J. A. wrote: "There is a scarcity of rabbits on Pass Creek and some of the natives said they found dead ones last summer. The only parasites on these beaver were fleas, a reddish-brown hard-shelled flea which apparently isn't bothered by submersion. They are an annoyance skinning beaver and are not particular what they feed on. The beaver, by their signs, came out of the creeks and had broad trails into the alfalfa meadows where they fed, and if the rabbits were diseased they could have contracted it there." In the fall of the year beaver move about a good deal and this movement might have aided in spreading the infection. It is also possible that the infection was water borne, as suggested by Hammersland and Joneschild.[1] The fact that practically no beaver escaped the infection indicates that water may have been partly responsible for the character of the outbreak.

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[1] *Jour. Am. Vet. Med. Asn.*, January, 1940.

SYSTEMATIC HISTOPLASMOSIS IN THE UNITED STATES

BETWEEN the years 1906 and 1908 Darling[1] in Panama reported at autopsy three cases of a systemic parasitic infection, the causative agent of which he called *Histoplasma capsulatum*. At first thought to be a tropical disease protozoan in nature and closely related to kala-azar, it has since been proved by de Monbreun[2] to be a fungus infection. Subsequently five[1a] cases have been reported from widely separated areas in the United States.

We have had the opportunity of studying a case of histoplasmosis occurring in a colored male adult who was admitted to St. Philip's Hospital in March, 1939. This is the second known case in which diagnosis was made before death. A detailed report of this case, including complete autopsy findings, will be published later.

Due to the fatal termination of the majority of these cases before diagnosis could be established, much concerning the manner of infection, diagnosis and treatment of the disease is still obscure. We believe that histoplasmosis is much more common than the number of published cases would lead one to believe. It is suggested that the findings of an anemia with leukopenia in a weakened, emaciated individual running a septic temperature should lead one to search the blood smears carefully for the parasite-laden monocytes. The enormous number of parasites seen in bone marrow preparations would indicate that sternal puncture studies are diagnostic.

Diagnosis may also be made by culture of the blood on dextrose or blood agar slants. Other media suitable for the cultivation of fungi would probably be satisfactory as the parasite grows readily. Intraperitoneal inoculation of the growth from blood agar slants into guinea pigs produces a typical infection. At autopsy the parasite can be found in abundance in the infected organs.

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SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS NEEDED IN FRANCE

ALL who can imagine or may remember the isolation

[1] S. T. Darling, *Arch. Int. Med.*, 2: 107, 1908.

[1a] Two additional cases in which diagnosis was made at autopsy have been since added to the literature.

[2] W. A. de Monbreun, *Amer. Jour. Trop. Med.*, 14: 127, 1934.

and difficulties and the intellectual vacuity inherent in some aspects of military service will understand the value of an organization recently created here with the title of *Service de Documentation Scientifique.* It is prepared to receive scientific publications, to make abstracts and translations and distribute them to a list of readers now in war work and for the most part deprived of library facilities. It will assemble articles on given subjects, utilize microfilm techniques in distributing copies of articles in full and provide many of the other services of a lending library.

Although many scientific journals are of course being received, it seems worth while to point out that reprints are of considerable value also and would be welcomed if mailed to Professor Joliot, Service de Documentation Scientifique, 18, rue Pierre Curie, Paris. Authors of scientific articles being currently published can contribute most helpfully by sending reprints in duplicate.

At the present time the following fields receive special attention: Physics, Physical Chemistry, Chemistry, Physics in Technology and Chemical Engineering, Physiology, Pharmacodynamics, Epidemiology, Hygiene and Nutrition. There is no implied rejection of other fields in natural science, but the fields mentioned are of special interest.

The values of such an undertaking are self-evident, and the above information for those who deplore the effects of war upon fellow scientists in France and upon science will probably require no special pleading.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

CHEMISTRY

A History of Chemistry. By F. J. MOORE, Ph.D., late professor of organic chemistry in Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Revision prepared by William T. Hall, associate professor of analytical chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Third Edition. xxi + 447 pp. 94 illustrations. New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1939. $3.00.

THE popularity of the late Professor Moore's "History of Chemistry," which was first published in 1918, is attested by the fact that it has now entered its third edition with an increase in size from 292 to 447 pages and in number of illustrations from 74 to 94. The continuation of the book through its second and third editions is due to the labors of Professor Hall, who has been assisted in the choice of new material and the reading of proof by his colleague of Massachusetts Tech., Professor Tenney Davis. The present work shows several important departures from the method of treatment pursued in previous editions. One of these innovations is the devotion of more space to the work of American chemists, for the reason stated in the preface that "in the German books on the history of chemistry, which have been either directly or indirectly the sources of much information in all books on the subject, the work of American chemists has been neglected. . . . More attention in this book is, therefore, paid to the story of American chemistry than is customary in short histories."

The purpose thus announced is commendable, provided the proposed sketch of American chemistry be made to fit into the general picture of world chemistry without impairing its perspective. This necessitates maintaining the same balance of treatment in describing domestic achievements as is followed in depicting foreign accomplishments. Unimportant developments are to be rejected, while major attainments must not be ignored. The violation of this principle of balance, which was so well maintained by Dr. Moore in the first edition of his book, is the reviewer's chief criticism of the new material introduced into the present volume. Fifteen lines, for example, are devoted to a sketch of Amos Eaton (an interesting but very insignificant figure in the history of world chemistry), while immediately afterwards only seven lines are devoted to Schönbein, a much more important chemical personage. The case for American chemistry could have been made much stronger if, instead of Eaton, readers were informed a little about J. W. Draper or Charles Goodyear, men of vastly greater chemical influence who find no mention in the pages of this new edition.

Histories of chemistry, as of other sciences, contain many inaccuracies that are simply copied without verification by one writer from another. The noted French chemist Dumas once wrote that Priestley died as a result of poison accidentally taken at a meal, and this erroneous statement with other inaccuracies has been copied and recopied so many times by French writers that the fiction, in France at least, has become almost an established article of belief. We Americans must not cast stones, however, for a goodly number of Priestley legends are being perpetuated right here at home. For example, on page 80 of the present volume it is said that after Priestley arrived in America, Benjamin Franklin tried to persuade him to live in Philadelphia. This statement is perhaps based on a remark of the late Dr. Lyman Newell (*Jour. Chem. Education,* 9: 682) that Franklin, who had been friendly to Priestley in England, "made strenuous