and harmful conclusions. It was learned that a single electrified wire, without any supporting fence near, was adequate to stop cattle and horses, but not deer. The deer-repellent fence, which has proved successful at two places in Kerr County where deer are abundant, was installed by State Game Warden Bill Garrett as follows: On the outside of a ten-acre farm, five feet from the regular fence, a single No. 9 telephone wire was strung on insulators 20 inches above the ground and charged with a six-volt dry cell battery.

The electrical device consists of an encased six-volt dry battery with transformer and interrupter. The battery is good for about four months; the other parts last indefinitely. (If the electric wire is to extend more than two miles it is advisable to have an electrician calculate the wattage and size of coil needed for the distance contemplated.) Other sources of power may be used, but the dry battery is preferred as being absolutely safe. The outfit can be bought at prices ranging from $12.00 to $20.00. The only maintenance cost would be the cutting of weeds or branches along the fence to prevent leakage.

The idea of placing the electric fence five feet from the regular fence might appear to be fantastic, but there is a reason. When a deer approaches a fence to jump over and finds two fences set five feet apart, he does not like the idea of so long a flat-footed jump. He pauses to pick the line of least resistance. Whether he decides to hop over the single wire or crawl under, he is apt first to make an inspection with his nose or otherwise rub against it and get a violent shock. Cattle thus shocked have avoided the fence long after the discontinuance of an electric current. All live stock, including hogs, respected the fence, and deer, which are very fond of tomatoes and potato vines, were not tempted to eat of the forbidden fruit during a three months' test.

J. G. BURR

GAME, FISH AND OYSTER COMMISSION,
AUSTIN, TEXAS

J. PETER LESLEY AND JOSEPH LESLEY

BIBLIOGRAPHERS as well as geologists should use extreme care when working with papers by either of the Lesley brothers, for the second state geologist of Pennsylvania, who was baptized Peter Lesley, at varying times throughout his life signed his name Peter Lesley, Peter Lesley, Jr., J. P. Lesley and J. Peter Lesley, the "J" standing for junior, while his brother Joseph, also a geologist, sometimes signed his name Joseph Lesley, Jr. The six variations listed above may be considered correct on the basis of actual usage by the individuals, but additional incorrect combinations have also appeared in print. Joseph P. Lesley and Joseph P. Lesley, Jr., each of which has been applied to both brothers, and Joseph Peter Lesley, John Peter Lesley and John P. Lesley which have been used for Peter Lesley, are all incorrect. Not only have wrong names been used in the past but bibliographic references have become badly mixed. Papers written by Peter Lesley have been accredited to Joseph and articles by Joseph attributed to Peter.

A more detailed paper on this problem appeared in the *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Academy of Sciences*, 1940.

LAWRENCE WHITCOMB

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

QUOTATIONS

THE BRITISH SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BY means of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the appointment of which is announced this morning, the scientific workers of the country are given a more defined place in the national effort. The distinguished men, acknowledged leaders in their own branches of science, who form the new committee will bring more than their individual, or even their combined, abilities to the services of the nation. They will establish a center and rallying point and be a means of releasing and employing scientific resource and skill. They will also be a channel of communication through which the spontaneous suggestions of scientific workers may be examined and tried.

The advisory powers of the committee will be employed at the instance of the Lord President of the Council, who will indicate particular problems for investigation, or of Government Departments which may ask for assistance in selecting suitable men to undertake particular lines of research. In exercising this function the members of the committee have a knowledge of varied and wide fields of science, and of the men engaged in scientific work, which will give access to resources that, in a mechanical and scientific war, must be utilized to the fullest extent. Here, it seems, the committee is to be at the disposal of the Government.

Even more significant is the conferment on the committee of the duty of seeing that no new scientific or technical developments go neglected. The committee will therefore be a sort of examining board for original ideas, which, passing its scrutiny, will go forward hallmarked for practical experiment or certain use. A clearing house for inventive ideas is not a new provision; but the advisory committee is more than that by reason of its constitution and its powers. It has the responsibility of sifting original ideas and inven-

tions and the highest competence for the task, but it has no need to wait for ideas to reach it from outside. The committee itself is a kind of scientific power house from which great things may be expected.—*The London Times.*

THE FUTURE OF POLISH SCIENCE

SINCE the restoration of Poland after the War of 1914–18 concentrated efforts have been made to develop and coordinate the scientific work of the country. During a difficult period of reconstruction, great progress was achieved and, in addition to the six universities, a number of other centers were available for learning and research. Before the outbreak of the present war, there were approximately 850 professors, 520 assistant professors and 1,600 research assistants and readers; the number of students being about 48,000. With the overrunning of Poland by Germany and the U.S.S.R., systematic and thorough methods have been employed to destroy its scientific life. This is being achieved in German-occupied Poland by the imprisonment of university staffs and scholars, the commandeering of specimens and equipment for use in the German Reich, the destruction of publications and libraries, and the closing of all centers of learning and higher education. Similar conditions exist in Soviet-occupied territory. Professors and research students have no means of continuing their work and the future of Polish science has been further jeopardized by the closing of secondary schools, thus destroying the source of future students. Fortunately, however, some forty-six Polish scientific workers have been able to reach England. They comprise among their subjects, anatomy, zoology, bacteriology, chemistry, physics and branches of engineering and mechanics; the majority can speak at least three languages. It is the Polish Government's earnest endeavor to conserve, through these men, the future of science in Poland. A few will be able to obtain British Council scholarships and will be placed by the council in British research institutions. The remainder will be given partial assistance from the very modest funds possessed for this purpose by the Polish Government.

The difficulties confronting the research workers who have no personal contacts in Great Britain are very great, not least among them the understandable antipathy and mistrust of foreigners which now exists in the country. The importance of securing the future of science and learning in Poland, however, will be fully realized, and by assisting to bring about the admission of Polish workers to research institutions in the British Commonwealth of Nations, British men of science can thus help to ensure a nucleus of Polish intellectuals. Also it must not be forgotten that Poland is an ally of Great Britain, who has at no time and in no way failed her, and that a common bond of hardship has drawn the two countries together in friendship.—*Nature.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

THE war has been going on for more than a year, but the British Museum continues to publish valuable works on various aspects of natural history. These publications, at least in the main, represent work done prior to the beginning of the war, but it is the policy to continue scientific work as circumstances permit, work which will have a permanent value when the war is only a matter of history. In the same spirit, the British journal *Nature* frequently reviews German scientific books, accepting them according to their merits, regardless of the conflict between the countries. The books and papers listed below are those which I have just received from the office of SCIENCE.

Karl Fiedler. Monograph of the South American Weevils of the Genus Conotrachelus. February, 1940. 365 pp., many illustrations. Dr. Fiedler, Sanitätsrat in Thuringia, had been studying the South American weevils for a number of years, and a few years ago was invited to revise and describe the material of this large genus which had accumulated in the British Museum. He found in the collection no less than 216 new species, and included in his study about 200 new species obtained from other sources. The complete list, including those previously described, includes about six hundred species. Many of these are important pests of cultivated plants, but for the majority the habits and life history are unknown. The large and well-drawn figures greatly facilitate determination. This excellent book, by a citizen of an enemy country, is published in German. It is remarked in the preface that it would be a heavy expense to translate it into English, and mistakes might be made in the process.

W. H. Evans. A Catalogue of the African Hesperiidae, indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum, 1937. 212 pp., 29 plates. Brigadier Evans, well known for his studies of the Oriental skipper butterflies, undertook to revise those of the African fauna, represented in the Museum by nearly 25,000 specimens, belonging to 70 genera, 421 species and 157 subspecies. The descriptions are very brief, but there are good colored figures of the new species, and of others which had