a fuller expression of these ideas see the following papers by the author.[3]

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CALENDAR REFORM AND THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MANY persons think that our present calendar has certain defects which could easily be remedied. The chief ones are (1) that a particular day of the month occurs in successive years on a different day of the week, making necessary a wholly new calendar each year, and (2) that the length of the months is not uniform but varies from 28 to 31 days. These two defects make the arrangement of schedules for industry and education difficult and temporary only.

Defect (1) could be remedied in a very simple way. The solar year, as recognized in our present calendar, consists of 365 days, or in leap years of 366 days. Neither period is divisible exactly into 7-day weeks. Fifty-two 7-day weeks make 364 days. If the 365th day is not included in one of these 52 weeks, but is considered an *extra Saturday,* or simply a *Year day,* a holiday, the new year will begin on Sunday always. The 366th day of leap years can be used in a similar way as an *extra Saturday,* or *Leap year day,* a holiday in the middle of the year, without disturbing the occurrence of a particular day of the month always on the same day of the week.

Two different proposals for calendar reform which have been widely discussed in recent years remedy defect (1) in this same simple and sensible way. But they differ in the way they deal with defect (2).

A proposed 13-month calendar would have each month consist of exactly 4 weeks. An objection which has proved fatal to this proposal in popular esteem is that the year would not be divisible by months into quarters and the familiar twelve months would have to be abandoned.

A less radical proposal is known as the World Calendar of twelve months and four equal quarters. This retains the familiar month names but adjusts their lengths so as to make them as nearly equal as possible. Each quarter begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. It contains 91 days. There are 30 days in each month except the first month of the quarter, which by reason of having a fifth (the initial) Sunday has 31 days. The number of week days is the same in every month, 26.

From a wish to ascertain the opinion of a body of eminent scientists upon the desirability and practicability of the proposed World Cadendar, an informal post-card questionnaire was recently sent to each member of the National Academy of Sciences. Replies were received from 168 members, more than half of the entire membership.

One question was worded, *"Do you consider the adoption of a revised World Calendar of 12 months and equal quarters, as outlined by the World Calendar Association, to be desirable?"* The answers were *"Yes,"* 128 (76 per cent.), *"No,"* 17 (10 per cent.), *"Undecided,"* 23 (14 per cent.).

Another question was worded, *"Would you consider it practicable for the United States to begin the use of such a calendar on January 1, 1945* [which will be a Sunday in our present calendar] *in collaboration with other governments?"*

The answers of the 128 who favor the World Calender were *"Yes,"* 74 (58 per cent.), *"No,"* unless the war ends soon enough, 54 (42 per cent.).

There can accordingly be no doubt about what would happen in calendar reform, if the scientists had their way.

W. E. CASTLE

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FISHERIES LITERATURE FOR CHINA

AN official of the Chinese Government with its capital now at Chungking has asked that there be secured for him whatever fisheries literature is available in order that some start may be made on the rehabilitation of Chinese fisheries after the war.

Such assistance will be a practical and direct way of showing our sympathy with the Chinese. It speaks volumes for their courage and confidence that such preparations should be under way.

He would be more than glad to receive any form of fisheries literature whether it deals with life history, systematics or technology which any reader of this notice may be able to spare for transmittal at such time as communications are re-established.

These should be sent to School of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, and marked plainly as intended for Ti Chow, Chungking.

W. F. THOMPSON,
Director

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

ANALYSIS OF POST-WAR PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES

AFTER winning the first World War, the Allies lost the peace because of the inability of statesmen and public opinion to understand the dependence of national security on world order and the dependence of world order upon truly workable international relations. Assuming the defeat of Hitlerism, how may

[3] *Amer. Nat.,* 74: 322, 1940; *Amer. Midl. Nat.,* 24: 306–335, 1940; *Wasmann Collector,* 4: 6, 1940; *Turtox News,* 19: 10, 1941; *Great Basin Nat.,* 2: 109, 1941; and *Turtox News,* 20: 12, 1942.

the mistakes of the last twenty-two years be avoided by the victorious nations? Many groups both in and out of government circles are working on aspects of this problem.

Because of the importance of science and specialized learning for problems of post-war adjustment and the need for representatives of the various disciplines better to understand each other, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is devoting its regular monthly meetings, November through May, to the subject of "Analysis of Post-War Problems and Procedures." The meetings are held at the Boston house of the academy under the chairmanship of its president, Harlow Shapley. The academy has approximately 800 members elected from a wide variety of professional fields. It especially represents competences in the natural and social sciences and in engineering and affairs.

Alfred North Whitehead, professor emeritus of philosophy, Harvard University, opened the series in November with a paper entitled, "Statesmanship and Specialized Learning."

The meeting on December 10th was concerned with problems of communication and transportation in a post-war world. Igor I. Sikorsky, engineering manager of United Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation, spoke on "The Air Transportation of the Future." Walter S. Lemmon, president of the World Wide Broadcasting Foundation, spoke on "Radio as a New Force in the Post-War World." A forum on December 15th followed this meeting and was led by Douglas H. Schneider, program manager of Station WRUL, and Joseph S. Newell, professor of aeronautical structural engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The meeting on January 14th was addressed by Zechariah Chafee, Jr., Langdell professor of law at Harvard University, on the subject of "International Utopias."

The February meeting will be in the hands of geographers. Professor Clarence Jones, of Clark University, will consider the economic geography of Latin America in relation to the war and to post-war problems, and Professor Samuel Van Valkenburg, also of the Clark geography department, will discuss the significance of the Netherlands East Indies in the present conflict.

At the March meeting anthropologists and social psychologists will consider ways in which these sciences may be of help in implementing the ideals of post-war democracy.

HUDSON HOAGLAND,
Recording Secretary
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE JAMES RIVER DRAINAGE AREA

THERE is now being compiled, under the chairmanship of Dr. Marcellus H. Stow, professor of geology at Washington and Lee University and president-elect of the Virginia Academy of Science, a monograph on the James River drainage area. The river, of so much romantic appeal, thus forms the unifying feature around which will be correlated an imposing body of scientific, sociological and historical research. Of Virginia's 100 counties, forty-two are either wholly or in part within the James River drainage basin. All branches of science are represented within the area and most of the universities, colleges and research institutions of the state are there located.

Dr. Stow will write the editorial preface of the monograph, to be called "The James River—Past, Present, Future," and will also cooperate with Joseph K. Roberts, professor of geology at the University of Virginia, and E. C. H. Lammers, assistant professor of geology at Washington and Lee, in preparing the chapter on "Geology." Other chapters and those who have accepted invitations to write them are as follows: "The James River Region as a Thoroughfare before the Coming of White Men," Austin H. Clark, curator of echinoderms, Smithsonian Institution; "Development of Transportation in the James River Area," L. S. Evans, assistant to vice-president, Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, and John J. Forrer, maintenance engineer, Virginia Department of Highways; "Recreation in the James River Region," Robert F. Nelson, public relations counsel, Virginia State Chamber of Commerce; "Agriculture," A. W. Drinkard, Jr., director, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station; "Astronomy, Mathematics, Physics," T. McN. Simpson, dean of Randolph-Macon College; "Botany," Ivey F. Lewis, dean of the University of Virginia; "Entomology," G. T. French, entomologist, Virginia Department of Agriculture; "Fish and Marine Invertebrates," Donald Davis, professor of biology, College of William and Mary, C. L. Newcombe, professor of biology, College of William and Mary, and Theodore Fearnow, wildlife technician, U. S. Forest Service; "Reptiles and Amphibians," Paul Burch, professor of biology, Radford State Teachers College, and Robert P. Carroll, associate professor of biology, Virginia Military Institute; "Birds," James J. Murray, Lexington; "Mammals," Talbott E. Clarke, wildlife technician, U. S. Forest Service; "Inorganic Chemistry," William G. Guy, professor of chemistry, College of William and Mary; "Education and Psychology," Dabney S. Lancaster, state superintendent of public instruction; "Engineering," Carter Hanes, associate professor of engineering, Virginia Military Institute; "Forestry," Chapin Jones, professor of forestry, Uni-