

1-7, 1-12 and 1 page 18 items. However, the 151 items listed constitute only 1 in every 596 of the about 90,000 names in the book, not including the cross references.

It is hoped that eventually a complete list of the generally approved changes and few errors and omissions can be made available to those interested.

Standardized Plant Names, second edition, edited by Harlan P. Kelsey and William A. Dayton, Harrisburg, Pa., J. Horace McFarland Co., 1942. Price, \$10.50.

P. L. RICKER

THE WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

STUDENTS' LECTURE NOTES

NINETY-NINE per cent. of my students in physiology courses given in Europe, China and in Chicago have been writing down the lectures so arduously that they did not have much opportunity either to think or to grasp the significance and relations of the subject. Very few of the students have had the time to go over the lecture notes at home and to correct them and make additions. During my own studies I have found it more profitable to listen intently to the lecturer, to take a few notes about the subjects discussed and to work out the lectures at home. Or, in the case of lecturers who use books, to find out the book and read the chapter at home. I have found very few students who could not remember lectures without having written them down in detail. I feel that the student who tries to write the lecture in the classroom loses more than he can gain, because by the writing he suppresses his critical thinking, the establishment of relationships between different matters and, worst of all, gives himself no training for remembering and associating the spoken word.

I have, therefore, for a number of years adopted the following system which has been successful enough to be made known for the trial and use in other institutions: One student or two, according to the size of the class, is asked to take lecture notes and to elabo-

rate them at home into a well-written and well-correlated paper. The rest of the class is asked not to take notes, but to listen to the lecture critically and to discuss the subject or to ask questions during the last five to ten minutes of the lecture period. The reports of the students are then corrected and amplified by myself, and the pertinent literature is added. The secretary of the class receives this copy and has mimeographic copies made by the secretary of the department. The total cost to the student of these copies for a course of one quarter, two lectures a week, is approximately \$1.40. The students have welcomed this method and have made good use of it, as I have been told by a great number of them. They feel that they learn more when they do not write constantly, and they are apparently under less nervous and physical strain than when they would have to watch for every word and sentence.

The reports handed in by the students are used as term papers and are corrected, the final grade of the student depending on the quality of these papers and his understanding and knowledge shown during the discussions at the end of each lecture. In a large class, each student will submit only one paper in a quarter, while in a smaller class he may have to submit two or three papers. If the one paper of a student of a larger class is not satisfactory, he is asked to submit another one. I have found this way of grading students as good as that which is achieved by a final oral or written examination at the end of the quarter. The students have the added advantage that at the end of a quarter they own the corrected and rounded out lecture notes, with the most important references from the literature for future reference, and the lecturer himself has the advantage of having his course worked out and organized so that he can use it again with the addition of recent advances or with slight reorganizations.

H. NECHELES

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Torch and Crucible: The Life and Death of Antoine Lavoisier. By SIDNEY J. FRENCH. ix + 285 pp. Princeton University Press. 1941. \$3.50.

Dr. Bard of Hyde Park: The Famous Physician of Revolutionary Times. The Man Who Saved Washington's Life. By JOHN BRETT LANGSTAFF. Introduction by Nicholas Murray Butler. 365 pp., with frontispiece, and 11 illustrations. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. 1942. \$3.75.

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