RESEARCH grants of more than $5,000 have been received by Stanford University in support of work in tropical diseases. These include $4,000 from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, $850 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, $400 from the National Academy of Sciences, and $200 from the May Esther Bedford Fund, Inc., of Connecticut. Other subscribers are the Higher Studies Fund at Oxford, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation and the Viking Fund. E. P. Mumford, research associate at the university, is in charge of an investigation of the geographical distribution of insects and other disease carriers and of the parasites of man in relation to the war and its aftermath. The study is being made with special emphasis on the Pacific islands.

THE regents of the University of Texas have agreed to take over the Texas Dental College. A one hundred thirty-four-acre site for the new medical center will be provided by the M. D. Anderson Foundation of Houston with funds for a dental building. The final arrangements are subject to authorization by the State Legislature.

GROUND has been broken on the "engineering quadrangle" of the Ohio State University for a small laboratory building to comprise two new units for the radiation laboratory. When completed about March 1, it will house an electrostatic generator developing three-million-volt x-rays, used to produce artificial radioactive substances, and an electron accelerator producing 20-million-volt x-rays. Other units of the radiation laboratory already installed are the cyclotron in the Engineering Experiment Station and the electron microscope in the Communications Laboratory. They represent a cooperative research program of the departments of physics, electrical engineering, chemistry and medicine, although the equipment also is available to other university departments. Because of the special work to be done in it, the new laboratory will have double walls of concrete blocks with earth between, it will be constructed half above ground and half below, and it will have a concrete roof.

The *Times*, London, reports that a grant from the Pilgrim Trust has enabled the owners of certain important manuscripts of Charles Darwin to present some of them to the Library of the University of Cambridge, and some to the British Association for preservation at Down House. The gift includes the manuscript of Charles Darwin's "Autobiography," the manuscript of the "Diary of the *Beagle*," with the field notebooks from which it was compiled, most of the manuscript of the "Origin of Species," the manuscript of "Movements of Plants," "Climbing Plants" and other works; correspondence with Wallace, Samuel Butler, Huxley and other contemporaries; a number of personal papers and of memoranda relating to Down; and a collection of pamphlets, some with annotations. It was in 1842 that Charles Darwin went to live at Down House. The first sketch, in his handwriting, of his species theory, written in 1842, is included in the gift.

THE Canadian controller of metals, according to the *Times*, London, has announced the discovery at Preissas, in northwestern Quebec, of a deposit of molybdenum. The deposit is at least 400 feet long and 200 feet deep and of an average width of 30 feet. It is hoped that its exploitation, which will be proceeded with immediately, will solve the problem of an acute metal shortage.

THE University of Ceylon was formally inaugurated at Colombo on July 14, by Dr. Ivor Jennings, the first vice-chancellor of the university. A notice in *Current Science* reads: "Ceylon's education was hitherto linked up with the University of London and although the creation of an independent university for Ceylon was under proposal for some years its inauguration so soon would not have been possible but for the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm of Dr. Jennings. His efforts have thus resulted in giving a fillip to the much desired want in the educational system of the island. The university is residential with faculties for arts and sciences, Oriental languages and medicine for the present. It is learned that the faculty of law will be added later on."

DISCUSSION

BACTERIAL GENERIC NAMES AS COMMON NOUNS

Two recent papers[1] have called attention to the justification for using generic names in the plural, if they are treated as common nouns and are not capitalized. Their point of view has so much logic and common sense behind it that it will be readily accepted by all except those who are distinctly opposed to using terms both as scientific names and as common names. As the present writers, however, have at times opposed a similar practice among bacteriologists, this note is written to clarify the situation and to show that we are not in opposition to the opinions of Dr. Mast and Dr. Beers.

[1] Mast, SCIENCE, 96: 252, 1942; Beers, SCIENCE, 96: 403, 1942.

Generic names have been used as common nouns by bacteriologists from the earliest days of that science, as is witnessed by the ordinary use of such words as "bacteria," "bacilli," "micrococci," "streptococci"; and no one has ever raised any serious objection to this usage. Recently, however, a tendency has appeared in bacteriological literature which is more open to question. The following sentence is an illustration of this undesirable usage: "none of the rhizobia are able to grow in this medium except *Rhizobium meliloti.*" In this sentence it is obvious that "rhizobia" is not used in the sense of "specimens" or even "individuals of the genus *Rhizobium,*" but rather to mean "species (pl.) of *Rhizobium.*" In other words, the mistake is made of allowing the singular, "rhizobium," to stand for a species, not for an individual. This is the practice to which we take exception. The four terms mentioned in the first sentence of this paragraph are rarely, if ever, so used.

It is quite possible that this practice is confined to bacteriology. Certainly none of the instances mentioned by Dr. Mast and Dr. Beers represent nouns used in the above sense. In any event it seems well to call the matter to the attention of those interested in nomenclature; and to explain our reason for opposing the occasional misuse of bacterial generic names as common nouns.

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ANOTHER MOULD WITH ANTI-BACTERIAL ABILITY[1]

SEARCHING for new anti-bacterial substances among by-products of the growth of *Fungi Imperfecti* we have noticed that one culture of *Aspergillus* sp. of the *Candidus* group gave a positive reaction for the presence of citrinin. The substance isolated in crystalline form showed the same properties as those described by Hetherington and Raistrick.[2] Its bacteriostatic properties and selective action on Gram-positive bacteria further indicate the similarity to citrinin.

Comparing the data published by Oxford[3] on the bacteriostatic power of citrinin it appears that our substance in purified or crude state is somewhat stronger. Thus growth of *Staphylococcus aureus,* in nutrient or 1 per cent. glucose broth, was completely inhibited in dilution 1:64,000; *Staph. albus* 1:128,000; *B. mycoides* 1:128,000. Partial inhibition (about 50 per cent. opacity) was shown in 1:1,024,000 dilution for all above-mentioned organisms. In lower dilutions (1:8,000 or 125γ per ml) it showed bactericidal ability in the case of *Staph. aureus* and *albus.* Furthermore, autoclaving of the serial dilutions for 30 minutes at 15 pounds pressure did not reduce the bacteriostatic power of the substance.

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A METEORITE FROM VERMONT

THE first meteorite to be recorded from Vermont was discovered by the writer on Whitcomb Hill in the town of Strafford, Vermont, in August, 1942, while engaged in geological field work. It was not seen to fall but lay upon the surface of the ground when found.

The specimen is an iron meteorite weighing five pounds and two ounces. Its shape is triangular, much like that of a flatiron, having a maximum length and width of 5.5 inches and 4 inches, respectively, and a thickness of 2.5 inches. The characteristic Widmanstätten figures were brought out microscopically on a polished surface by etching with a dilute solution of nitric acid. The weathered surface is a dark, rusty brown.

The meteorite has been named the South Strafford meteorite because of the nearness of this village to the place of discovery. Further work on this meteorite is in progress.

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THE TOOLS OF SCIENCE AND THE WAR INDUSTRY

THE services that science can render to the war effort are of many kinds. The means for contributing some are readily at hand, while the means for contributing others must be created. Stanford University has had the privilege of assisting in an enterprise of the latter class that deserves to be reported as a possible source of ideas applicable in other instances. The experience is especially instructive as evidence of what can be accomplished through cooperation of a number of unrelated agencies working toward a common goal that no one of the agencies could have attained by itself.

An inquiry initiated at Stanford last spring into opportunities for contribution of statisticians to the war effort led to a suggestion from Dr. W. Edwards Deming, that a short course be offered to promote the adoption of recently developed statistical methods of quality control, and improved methods of sampling for tests of quality, in West Coast war industries. The suggestion posed two problems: that of providing for the requisite instruction, and that of bringing to

[1] Contribution No. 157 (Journal Series).
[2] A. C. Hetherington and H. Raistrick. *Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. of London,* Series B, 220: 269–295. 1931.
[3] A. E. Oxford. *Chem. Ind.,* 61: 48–51. 1942.