

bage and corn—and a few vegetables hitherto little cultivated there—spinach, collards, celery, peas, squash and eggplant. The stations accredited with the various seeds are as follows: California, Conne-

cticut (New Haven), Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey (New York), Cornell, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia Truck, Washington, Wisconsin and Saskatchewan.

DISCUSSION

WHEN A COMMITTEE VOTES BY MAIL

WHEN it is necessary for a committee to consider a question and render a report without holding a meeting, a vote of the members may be taken by mail. Excepting for questions with the analysis of which all committee members are surely already well acquainted, a satisfactory decision by mail vote is difficult unless special precautions are first taken to make sure that every member has ample opportunity to express his own ideas and to consider ideas that may be expressed by others of the group. Only in such manner can a mail vote be democratically based on free discussion comparable to the discussion that usually precedes a vote taken at an actual meeting, when all members express themselves orally. Because meetings of committees representing scientific organizations in wartime are likely to involve unwonted difficulties of time and travel, votes by mail may now be resorted to more frequently than in recent years. It is therefore timely to consider ways and means by which this form of voting may be best employed. The following suggested plan of procedure involves some ideas expressed in *SCIENCE* for May 13, 1913, by Dr. Edward C. Pickering, a former chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Association. This plan was approved in principle by the Executive Committee of the American Association at its meeting on October 17, 1942.

(1) A mail ballot may have been authorized by the committee at an actual meeting or may be called for by any member at any time. A suitable memorandum concerning the question or questions to be considered is to be sent by the chairman to every member, with the request that each member shall reply promptly by (a) registering his approval or disapproval of the taking of the proposed mail ballot, also (b) presenting a preliminary statement of his views and (c) registering his vote on the memorandum if he wishes to do so at once.

(2) If a majority of the members vote against taking the proposed mail ballot, the chairman is to announce the adverse decision by means of a second communication to all members and the memorandum, together with the responses thereto, are to be placed on record for oral consideration at the next following session of the committee.

(3) If a majority of the members approve of tak-

ing the proposed mail ballot, and if the votes on the memorandum are decisive, the chairman's second communication to members is to be a minute of the action thus taken, announcing approval of the ballot and the resulting decision.

(4) If a majority of the members approve of taking the proposed mail ballot, but if the votes on the memorandum are not decisive, then the chairman's second communication to members is to announce approval of the ballot, at the same time transmitting to each member copies or abstracts of all preliminary statements received from members, with the request that each shall reply promptly by registering his vote for or against the question or questions proposed in the memorandum.

(5) If the votes received in response to this second communication show a majority of the members to be in essential agreement, a third communication from the chairman is to be a minute of the action thus taken. Otherwise, the third communication is to announce that no decision is indicated, and all papers concerning the question or questions involved are to be placed on record for oral consideration at the next following session of the committee.

(6) Actions taken by mail ballot are to become effective immediately unless otherwise provided, and minutes thereof are to be reported at the next following session of the committee.

(7) If any two members should be dissatisfied with the chairman's interpretation of the result of a mail ballot they may unite in calling for a repetition of the ballot, furnishing a suitable memorandum therefor, and the repetition is to be carried out as indicated above.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
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Association for the Advancement of
Science*

SPELLING OF THE ADJECTIVE "HYPOPHYSEAL"

THE following comment was prepared in answer to a request for an opinion from the editors of a prominent scientific journal.

The word "hypophysis" was first used in English to indicate the pituitary gland, about the middle of the nineteenth century; its adjectival form did not appear in Webster's dictionary until the revision of 1890.