

by workers now in the field since there is a minimum of additional expense and effort involved.

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A PLEA

THIS is a plea from one who likes, occasionally, to run as he reads. In wartime censorship is vital. In the days of 1918 "somewhere in France" became a familiar figure of speech. But the knowledge concealed by the title of a scientific paper such as "The Genus *Oochoristica* Lühe 1898" conceals nothing of value except from the wistful seeker after knowledge. Only after a study of such an article is he delighted or disappointed to learn that the aforesaid *Oochoristica* is taxonomic sanctuary for "forty-five valid species of tapeworms parasitic as adults in reptiles and mammals." This title confusion is being slowly clarified, but there is another which is much worse.

I have just read that a certain copepod in which I was interested was taken in two hauls, one in 11° 18'N, 78° 34'W, and the second 6° 32'N, 80° 04'W, but only detailed search through a footnote or time-consuming labor with an atlas and a pair of dividers reveals the important fact that the hauls were made in different oceans.

I have often wondered whether I am alone in abyssal ignorance of the relative positions of such localities as 40° 33'N, 74°W, and 40° 33'S, 74° E, or whether there are others who are grateful for the trouble I have always taken in adding to 39° 15'N, 72°W and 2° 59'N, 78° 11'W, the sub-titles, 125 miles S E of New York City, and Gorgona Island, Colombia, respectively.

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RUSSIAN NAMES

IN SCIENCE of February 19, p. 178, Professor Neugebauer gives a useful list of recent contributions to pure mathematics in Russia. This list could and should be extended to other contributions of value, printed periodically in the "Doklady" of the Soviet Academy. They are in excellent English (or French), and relate to physics, chemistry and all branches of natural history. However, the direct object of these few words is to call attention to the need of a definite rule in the transliteration of the Russian names. The faults in the list given in this respect are not those of the referent, but they are faults nevertheless and should be avoided in our publications.

The rules are simple enough. There is no "w" in the Russian alphabet, but only "v"; the letters "f" or "ff" never in Russian end a name, the terminal consonant being invariably "v"; and the "tsh" or "tch" is generally "č," with the exact sound of the "ch" in "cherry." As it is, the terminal "v" in the names quoted is given four times correctly, five times as "w" and four times as "ff"; while the "č" (now written thus not only in the Slavic languages but also in the German and occasionally even in the English) is given in most cases as the clumsy "tsh" or "tch."

As the use of the Russian names by American scientists may well be expected to go on increasing, it would seem only sensible to adapt definite and correct rules for their transliteration, even if the errors should come from Russia itself or from the authors. The latter I found endeavor often to conform to what seem to be the wishes of their English-speaking colleagues.

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE WAR MANPOWER SITUATION IN PHYSICS

THIS statement should be read in connection with the item entitled "Suggestions from the Office of Scientific Personnel of the National Research Council" which appeared in the January 1 number of SCIENCE and which called attention to the need for recruiting teachers of physics from the ranks of other departments or from other sources. Only in this way can bidding among institutions be prevented, which would make more difficult the meeting of the shortage. In each department there must be a nucleus of regular teachers if it is to successfully assimilate the additional staff.

It is now possible to say definitely that, on the average, for every physicist engaged in college teaching in

January of this year there must be at least one and one half teachers of physics recruited from other sources. This ratio is based on official information regarding presently available teachers of physics and the number of teachers needed adequately to take care of the urgent demands that will be made by the Army and Navy training programs, as well as what will remain of normal programs. In view of this situation, no institution has a right to recruit teachers of physics from any college which is at all likely to have a training unit or to have a sufficiently large enrolment of women, younger men and physically disqualified men to justify the continuance of the department. If, after the training programs are under way, any institution has a ratio of genuine to "ersatz" teachers of physics higher than one to one and one half, it will find itself open to severe criticism if any of the ex-