racy the professors in universities and colleges should serve only the public interest.

We recommend to the university and college administrative officers that all teachers in institutions of higher learning be required to note to their college officials their contractual connections with corporations or private or even public utilities. These connections should be noted after the teachers' names in some readily accessible publication for each institution, so that any pronouncements may be judged by the public and the press as to whether such pronouncements emanate from a financial interest or from an academic (unpaid) interest in the public welfare.

Coupled with this resolution it is expected that an act will be introduced into Congress to compel all so-called expert witnesses who testify before Congressional committees to record their affiliations in advance of their testimony and that such connection be properly indicated when the expert testifies.

By such processes Americans may hope that the scientists will re-establish themselves in the confidence of the public which they serve.

I invite correspondence from all members of scientific societies who feel that the movement is worthy of academic and scientific support.

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ABNORMAL NITROGEN METABOLISM IN BURNS

CERTAIN patients suffering from severe burns have shown gross abnormalities in nitrogen metabolism. The observations suggest that the nutritional status of patients with burns needs careful attention.

Eleven of twenty-two severely burned patients excreted excessive amounts of nitrogen in the urine. Sometimes as much as 45 grams were excreted within 24 hours, or an amount equivalent to the catabolism of 250 grams of protein a day. Such losses cause a serious nitrogen deficit.

Large increases in the residual nitrogen of the urine, both in the absolute amount and in the percentage of the total nitrogen excreted, occurred in some of the patients. Sometimes 80 per cent. of the nitrogen excreted was in this form.

Plasma studies showed a similar abnormality in the nitrogen partition. There was present an azotemia with an increase of urea, but the residual nitrogen of the blood plasma was also markedly increased.

At present it is not possible to state whether the residual nitrogen present in the blood and urine is polypeptide nitrogen, as suggested by other observers.[1, 2] However, it does yield by hydrolysis large amounts of amido and amino nitrogen. The findings are consistent with the presence in both blood and urine of a protein metabolite of high molecular weight.

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[1] P. Duval, J.-Ch. Roux and Goiffon, *Presse Med.*, 42: 1785, 1934.

[2] O. Lambret, J. Driessens and H. Malatroy, *Compte Rend. Soc. de Biol.*, 123: 12, 1936.

TYPES OF ARGENTINIAN PLANTS OF SPEGAZZINI

ALL taxonomists working intensively on the flora of South America must necessarily evaluate the many hundreds of species of all groups of vascular plants of Argentina described by the late Carlos Spegazzini (1858–1926). As further exploration of Argentina and adjacent countries brings to light additional species it becomes increasingly important to understand exactly what Spegazzini had as types of his species. This need is now being met through the far-seeing interest of the Department of Botany of the Museo de La Plata of the Universidad de La Plata. Professor Angel L. Cabrera, in charge of the Section of Phanerogams, is supplying five or six of the leading herbaria of the world a complete series of photographs of these types. The first series of 100 prints with detailed labels has just reached the Gray Herbarium. The glossy prints, 12×17 cm, are beautifully prepared. These and the series soon to follow will be invaluable to all students of South American plants.

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OPTICAL ILLUSIONS FROM TRAIN WINDOWS

IF one is riding forward rapidly in a train traversing prairie country with wide vistas, the landscape one passes seems to be a circle revolving counter-clockwise with the center at the horizon on a radius at right angles from the tangent on which the train seems to be moving.[1] If now the train stops, the movement of the illusory circle seems to reverse and move majesti-

[1] The circular motion described is observed from the right side of the train, and of course is reversed from the left.