project there. The American and Canadian Standards Associations have continued, with such information about the English point of view that it is hoped that the ASA lists being issued will require but little addition when letter symbols for the English language again come to be considered. Furthermore, the American lists will give standards for our use until this happy time comes, and will furnish a definite statement of the American point of view when it does come.

Further information about the details of the American Standards Association symbols project, with reasons for the selections in particular cases of the symbols for heat and thermodynamics, are given in articles appearing in the September issues of *Mechanical Engineering,* published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the *American Journal of Physics* and *Industrial Standardization.*

SANFORD A. MOSS

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,
WEST LYNN, MASS.

A TEXAS SKELETON

HIGH water on June 24 caved off the nearly vertical bank of the Brazos River sixty miles northeast of Abilene, Texas, and exposed a flexed human skeleton at a depth below the present soil surface of twenty-one feet. The top of the bank at the site is thirty-two feet above low-water level; and the bands of silt formation above the grave are regular and unbroken for considerable distances on each side and above the burial. Where the burial was made the silt banding rises to a somewhat higher level than the same bands do a short distance above and below it. Evidently burial was made in a shallow grave on a slightly higher point along the river bank and subsequently twenty-one feet of river silt has covered the whole valley floor. There were no stones, shells or artifacts in the grave. The head was buried a little higher than the body, which lay flexed on the left side, and surrounded by ashes and charcoal. The bones are hard and evidently somewhat mineralized.

The skull was exposed by high water and most of the hand bones—the hands were usually placed on each side of the face in Abilene region flexed burials—were washed away. Part of the skull top and the left side of the skull were also washed away. The frontal bone, the lower jaw and teeth, and the right side of the skull and other parts were found still embedded in the bank eleven feet above low-water level by a boy swimming below it. The boy, James Putnam, and a companion dug out the remaining skull bones with pocket knives; and his uncle, J. C. Putnam, took them sixty miles to Abilene on the 26th. Mr. Putnam has watched the river banks for bones ever since 1929, when the writer excavated two peculiar skeletons buried six and a half feet deep in a Brazos River bank.[1, 2]

In 1939 Mr. Putnam had also brought information of the washing out of another skeleton in a river bank near by at below nine feet from the soil surface.[3]

On June 27 the writer and a local geologist, H. H. Adams, went to the site, photographed the plainly seen skull mold, and with the assistance of J. C. Putnam and James P. Putnam, the ranch owners, excavated the remainder of the skeleton, which lay farther back in the bank. The condition of the caving bank did not justify delay and another rise might have removed the bones.

Most of the long bones were found, and these have some peculiar curvatures and torsions, which call for careful study. On the skull the brow ridges are thick, and the upper portion of the frontal bone near the articular surface is more than three eighths of an inch thick.

There is a thick stratum of ashes eight feet beneath the burial which bands the bank for a considerable distance, but whether this is due to human or natural agencies is not yet known. This burial is far deeper than any previously found in the Abilene region.

Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Bureau of American Ethnology, was asked to inspect the site, and he came on July 7 and remained five days studying the burial site and also many other deeply buried midden strata in various stream banks of the Abilene region. The skeleton will be sent to Dr. Roberts at the Smithsonian Institution for scientific study.

CYRUS N. RAY

ABILENE, TEXAS

TRANSLITERATION OF ENGLISH NAMES INTO RUSSIAN

IN the September 3d issue of SCIENCE, there is a note by the late Aleš Hrdlička on the transliteration of English names into Russian. The author states, quite rightly, that there is no "w" in Russian, and that this sound in his opinion should be represented by "v," while Russians in general represent it by "u," the examples mentioned being "Wendell Willkie" and "New York." Possibly there are some who do transliterate Willkie as Uillkie, but it is far from general. For instance, in the Russian newspaper, "Novoye Russkoye Slovo," published in New York, this name is transliterated as "Vilki." "W" in this first example sounds more like "v" than "u." In the second example, in "New York" "w" sounds more like "u," and so it is usually transliterated as "Niu." The use of "v" in this word would make it sound like

[1] Cyrus N. Ray, *Scientific American,* May, 1929.

[2] J. Alden Mason, *The Museum Journal,* September–December, 1929, The Museum of The University of Pennsylvania.

[3] Cyrus N. Ray, Plate 52, *Bulletin* of Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society, Vol. 11, 1939.