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.*

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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.

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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.

"Nev," which would not correspond to the pronunciation of the word at all.

As for the "h" sound, if one would only take the trouble to look to page 344 in Alexandrow's dictionary, which is probably the most complete Russian-English and English-Russian dictionary, one would see that the word "hall" mentioned by Aleš Hrdlička is transliterated as "hol" and not "gol," along with a score of other words containing the same letter "h."

As for the English "sh," no Russian would ever use "š" as suggested by Hrdlička, since there is no letter "š" in Russian. This letter appears in the Czech language and possibly a Czech might use it, but certainly not a Russian. To do such a thing for a Russian would be similar to a case of an American wanting to use some Chinese or Hebrew letters in transliterating Russian names into English. In transliterating names like "Shaw," the sound "aw" is sometimes transliterated as "ou."

No matter how carefully one tries to transliterate English names into Russian, it can not be done exactly, as there are many English sounds that have no corresponding ones in Russian and *vice versa*. Some Russian scientific publications follow the practise of retaining English names in their original form, printing them in Latin letters. This is an exact method, which leaves no room for any distortions or ambiguities. I believe that, if this practice is more generally used, it might prove to be the best and simplest way of solving this problem.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

TROPICAL DISEASES

Stitt's Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Tropical Diseases. By RICHARD P. STRONG. 1747 pp. Philadelphia: The Blakiston Company. $21.00.

STITT'S "Diagnostics and Treatment of Tropical Diseases" went through five editions under the able authorship of Rear Admiral E. R. Stitt, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy. The first edition appeared in 1914 and the fifth in 1929. The sixth edition of this well-known American text-book of tropical medicine was published in 1942, and reprinted after further revision in 1943 under the authorship of Dr. Richard P. Strong.

The increase in knowledge of tropical and parasitic diseases accumulated in the twelve years intervening between the appearance of the fifth and sixth editions, together with the obvious needs for providing more detailed information concerning the epidemiology and methods of control of communicable diseases, necessitated enlargement to two volumes.

As is pointed out by Rear Admiral E. R. Stitt in the foreword, Dr. Richard P. Strong brought to the task of revision an unusually broad experience in tropical medicine in many parts of the world. His post as president of the Army Tropical Disease Board in the Philippines; professor of tropical medicine at the University of the Philippines, and subsequently at Harvard; his activities as chairman of Red Cross Commissions for the investigation of pneumonic plague in Manchuria, typhus fever in the Balkans and trench fever in France during the first World War, and his expeditions to Africa, the Amazon and other areas of Central and South America have equipped him with intimate personal knowledge of the field problems in many aspects of tropical medicine. His own investigations in the dysenteries, plague, trypanosomiasis, bartonellosis and onchocerciasis have constituted important contributions to our knowledge of these diseases and likewise have provided a critique for his treatment of the whole field of tropical medicine. This unusually rich personal experience is amply reflected throughout the book.

The text is arranged in a series of Sections. Section I deals with "Diseases Due to Protozoa"; Section II—"Diseases Due to Bacteria"; Section III—"Diseases Due to Filterable Viruses, Rickettsiae and Allied Organisms"; Section IV—"The Nutritional Disorders"; Section V—"Diseases Not Included in Other Categories," including effects of heat, tropical ulcer, granuloma venereum, climatic bubo and other rarer conditions; Section VI—"Diseases Due to Fungi and Poisonous Plants"; Section VII—"Diseases Due to Animal Parasites," including the role of arthropods in the transmission of disease, poisonous snakes and lizards, fish and coelenterates; Section VIII deals with general considerations of medical practice in tropical areas.

Following the text is an appendix which presents an index to clinical diagnosis, alphabetically arranged, an index of laboratory diagnostic procedures and a section on personal hygiene, tropical hygiene and sanitation.

The sections devoted to descriptions of the particular diseases constitute excellent presentations of the most authoritative data in sufficient detail to make this an excellent reference work, as well as an essential volume for the practitioner of clinical medicine in the tropics.

The selected bibliography which follows each section provides a list of the more important fundamental articles dealing with the subject which adds greatly to the value of the book as a whole. Although it is difficult to single out particular sections, the presen-