has completed a monograph on the Eocene faunas of South America and hopes to obtain specimens that will enable him to establish more accurately the correlations between North and South America.

DR. ANDREW TOPPING, deputy medical officer of health of the London County Council, has been appointed chief medical officer to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

IT is reported in *Nature* that the British Medical Research Council has established a unit for research in human nutrition as part of its staff organization, and that Dr. B. S. Platt has been appointed its director. Temporary accommodation has been provided at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London. Some part of the investigations undertaken by the unit will be directed toward nutrition problems in the tropics. Among other things, Dr. Platt will continue the work, for which he joined the staff of the council in 1938, of coordinating a program of nutritional investigations in the Colonies by arrangement between the Colonial Office and the council.

PROFESSOR HENRY A. MATTILL, director of the department of biochemistry at the University of Iowa, gave the annual Day Lecture before the Chapter of Sigma Xi of the University of Rochester on February 22. His subject was "The Long and Short of Nutrition."

AT the request of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru have sent sixteen representatives to the University of California at Berkeley for a special course to be given by the new School of Public Health. There will be two terms of sixteen weeks covering problems of nutrition and personal hygiene; sanitary bacteriology and environmental sanitation; general education and sociology; public health administration, and health education. The teaching staff will include members of the School of Education and of the department of home economics and social welfare; the School of Medicine at San Francisco; and representatives of the U. S. Public Health Service, the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor and the State Department of Public Health.

AN appropriation amounting to $135,732 for grants-in-aid for research has been made to the University of Wisconsin by the Alumni Research Foundation.

THE Medical Branch at Galveston of the University of Texas has received grants of $2,400 each for the support of fellowships in pharmacology from Frederick Stearns and Company of Detroit and from the Bilhuber-Knoll Company of Orange, N. J.

IT is stated in *The Museum News* that Eagle's Nest, the home of the late William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., at Huntington, Long Island, is to become a public museum and park. The will, filed in January, provides that the Vanderbilt Marine Museum, which was built on the grounds by Commodore Vanderbilt in 1922, the mansion with certain furnishings and the land shall become public property upon the death of Mrs. Vanderbilt or after she may cease to occupy the home. Administration will be by three trustees who are to offer the property first to New York State or then to the county or finally to the town of Huntington. If the gift is not accepted, the trustees after two years are to create an organization to control the museum and park. The will provides for a trust fund of $2,000,000 of which the income will be for operation and maintenance. Eventually this fund will be substantially increased from the residuary estate, the value of which has not yet been determined.

APPLICATION has been filed with the Federal Communications Commission for a unique type of FM broadcasting station for the Washington, D. C., area. The applications was filed in the name of the FM Development Foundation, organized by Professor Edwin H. Armstrong, of Columbia University, inventor of the FM system, and by C. M. Jansky, Jr., and Stuart L. Bailey, members of the Washington consulting engineering firm of Jansky & Bailey, who constructed the first FM station there. The proposed site of the station is at Olney, Md., and the transmitting equipment will be substantially a duplicate of Professor Armstrong's station at Alpine, N. J. The foundation is organized to carry on research to foster the development of the FM broadcasting art.

DISCUSSION

INSTIGATOR OF THE WEATHER BUREAU

THE issue of SCIENCE for December 24, 1943, in the biographical sketches contributed by Everett I. Yowell errs in crediting Cleveland Abbe with initiating "a system of daily weather reports and storm predictions which led to the establishment of the United States Weather Bureau" (page 553), and the tablet at the Abbe Meteorological Observatory in Cincinnati is wrong in calling him the "First official United States Weather Forecaster" (page 555). Instead, the credit for these achievements should go to Increase A. Lapham (1811–75) of Wisconsin.

On December 8, 1869, Lapham petitioned Congress to inaugurate a system of forecasts, reciting the losses of men and ships in storms on the Great Lakes and the success of the French weather service which organized a telegraphic weather service with maps in 1855 (Cong. Doc. Ser. No. 1431, Doc. 10). The bill requested by Lapham was introduced by Congressman H. E. Paine of the First Wisconsin (Milwaukee) District on December 14, 1869, and became law on February 9, 1870 (16 Stat. 369).

The Wisconsin Historical Society possesses a holographic letter from Abbe to Lapham dated January 7, 1870, acknowledging Lapham's authorship of the legislation in the words, "I must express the pleasure experienced in realizing the energy with which you are pushing the matter of a telegraphic meteorological system of storm warnings."

The society also has the holographic commission appointing Lapham assistant to the chief signal officer of the United States on November 8, 1870, signed by the chief signal officer, Albert J. Myer. According to the Annual Report of the Chief Signal Officer for 1871, Lapham had "supervision of the signal service on the lakes" (page 7), and Lapham's report in the same volume (page 167) shows that he issued a storm warning on the day of his appointment and continued making weather maps for forecasts until the end of the season of navigation.

The appointment of Abbe to a similar position at Washington took place on January 3, 1871 (*ibid.*, page 8) and he began forecasting on February 19, 1871, 103 days after Lapham.

It is also interesting to note that this society has two weather maps issued by Abbe for the Cincinnati Board of Trade and similar to those issued by the Western Union Telegraph Company at Cincinnati in continuation of Abbe's maps (see W. H. Alexander, "A Climatological History of Ohio," Columbus, 1923, pages 24–25). None of these maps contains isobars, forecasts or other "analysis." Only data of temperature and wind direction are given.

For a fuller account of Lapham and his contributions, reference is made to Eric R. Miller, "New Light on the Beginnings of the Weather Bureau from the Papers of Increase A. Lapham," *Monthly Weather Review*, February, 1931.

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A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DENTAL CARIES AND SALIVA

A CLEAR relationship has been discovered between the rate of starch hydrolysis by saliva and the incidence of caries in the individual. Without exception among those studied, individuals with extensive caries (twenty or more cavities) produce saliva which hydrolyzes starch under standard test conditions with extreme rapidity. Individuals without caries produce saliva which hydrolyzes starch very slowly.

In 51 careful case studies at the Forsyth Dental Infirmary and at Radcliffe College no one has been found whose salivary reaction is out of line. Table 1 reflects the data accumulated to date:

TABLE 1

Number of individuals	Number of cavities	Average time
4	0	44.5 min.
6	1 to 3	36.5 "
8	4 to 6	18.5 "
14	7 to 9	8.7 "
13	10 to 12	6.8 "
2	13 or 14	4.0 "
2	20 or 21	1.8 "
2	32 or 33	1.0 "

A more detailed report upon this investigation is in preparation and will appear later with speculations on fluoride and amino acid in relation to the caries problem.

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THE USE OF RHODIUM IN BLOOD CHEMISTRY

A YEAR ago I noticed the symbol "Rh" used in a biochemical abstract. Working on the "Bibliography of the Metals of the Platinum Group," I wondered about the use of rhodium in blood chemistry, and following it up I received the following from Dr. Levine: "Although I agree with you in general, it is nevertheless difficult to assign names to substances of biological activity which are not duplicated in another branch. There are a number of agglutinable factors identified by the letters A, B, O, M, N and P. We couldn't use the letter R because this was previously used instead of O. The letters Rh seemed indicated, since it followed the alphabetical arrangement of other blood factors and at the same time shows its relationship to a blood factor in macacus rhesus."

As it seemed probable that this symbol would be used only in biochemical publications, there would be little probability of any confusion, but *Science News Letter* for November 27 has a half page article on a "New Blood Test," in which "Rh" occurs more than a dozen times, in such expressions as "Rh factor," "Rh blood" and even "Rh husbands." As "Rh" has been used as the symbol for the metal rhodium for more than a century, and has at least been seen by every