check area for comparison with lands under industrial use. Conflict is indicated by F. E. Molin's "When and if it Rains,"[2] which rejects results of grazing research, and by various resolutions of livestock and dairymen's associations. These incidents are of the same general nature as the request handed to more than one prosecuting attorney to desist in his efforts because the results are bad for business. The word does not come to scientists in the form of the legal phrase "cease and desist." The natural procedure of the politician, frequently of the administrator, is to convince his opponent by suggestions of ineffectiveness and impropriety.

Agencies representing special fields of knowledge, some of it technical, can not make presentations through another less scientific agency. To minimize misconstructions and misrepresentations, public application of scientific principles and the needs of future research should be urged by the specialists themselves. Human society, which supports research, will hold scientific men and the societies which they constitute responsible for failure to urge the application of their knowledge directly and simply whenever it is in the interest of society to do so. No scientific society devoted to research should fail in fulfilling this obligation.

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BIOLOGICAL FIELD WORK IN BOLIVIA

MOST botanists and zoologists are eager to find a place to make headquarters in a country which suffers from lack of accommodation. It may be useful, therefore, to point out the advantages offered by a Jewish refugee agricultural colony known as Socobo (Sociedad colonizadora de Bolivia). Their office is in La Paz, and the post office box is Casilla Correo 975, La Paz, Bolivia.

The plantation consists of approximately 2,000 acres of rather steep land ranging in elevation from 3,400 feet to 5,500 feet on the Amazonian slopes of the Andes not far from the town of Coroico. The latter town is well known to plant explorers and provides only the most primitive accommodation. At Socobo one finds well-constructed concrete, screened houses with electric light and safe drinking water, none of which are possible in most of Bolivia. It is approximately seven hours by car from La Paz over rather dangerous roads, but perfectly passable during the dry season from May to December.

They have available houses which can be hired for a reasonable sum, and within a few hours by mule-back one can get from permanent glaciers to tropical jungle. Arrangements can also be made for the hiring of animals and men if necessary. The place is ideal to use as headquarters for ecological or taxonomic work in a part of the Andes providing excellent opportunities in both fields. Inquiries should be made directly to Socobo at La Paz, or they may be sent to Dr. Adalberto Lindenstadt, who may be addressed at Socobo, Coroico, Bolivia.

NORMAN TAYLOR

IMPROBABILITY AND IMPOSSIBILITY

LECOMTE DU NOÜY[1] has presented the problem of the determination of the color of an unexposed photographic plate as one practically and theoretically impossible of solution. Although we can not learn the absolute answer to this question, I believe that we could reach a highly probable conclusion.

As a practical approach to the problem we could make a series of measurements of the wave-lengths of light reflected from the photographic emulsion at either decreasing intensities or decreasing exposure times of the incident light. This might possibly be accomplished with existing spectrophotometric equipment or perhaps more sensitive instruments would be required. The data obtained could be used for graphical extrapolation to the wave-lengths at zero light exposure. To bring the results into the realm of vision we could make up a synthetic pigment which would give a reflection curve corresponding to the extrapolated wave-length curve.

This method might give results just as close to the truth as are many widely held scientific beliefs. I believe that any problem depending on the laws of nature is subject to a highly probable solution, with refinements in the technics available.

B. W. HOTTEN

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

LOCOMOTION

Speed in Animals. By PROFESSOR A. BRAZIER HOWELL. 270 pages. The University of Chicago Press. $4.00. 1944.

PROFESSOR HOWELL'S book "Speed in Animals" results from his long-standing interest in comparative anatomy and behavior. The degree and extent of the author's interest has determined accordingly the scope, emphasis and organization of the subject-matter.

"Speed in Animals" makes the following contributions to existing literature and information: (a) View-

[2] American National Livestock Association, 515 Cooper Bldg., Denver, Colo., 1938.

[1] SCIENCE, 100: 334, 1944.