of dues ($9.00 without journals[6]), which are higher than average. The relatively large membership in the societies representing the various branches of zoology is accounted for in part by low dues (average about $3.00) and the fact that there is undoubtedly a large amount of overlapping membership.

The starring of chemists in "American Men of Science" is wholly out of line with the data which have been presented. The numbers of the various scientists first starred in "American Men of Science" in the seventh edition, as well as earlier editions, are as follows[7]: chemists 44; physicists 37; zoologists 37; geologists 27; botanists 25; mathematicians 21; pathologists 15; astronomers 13; psychologists 13; physiologists 11; anatomists 7; anthropologists 5. If we accept the other numbers (taken as a group) as a standard, the number of chemists who should have been starred (leaving out of consideration past deficiencies) is about 58 if the total listing in "American Men of Science" is used as a basis or about 295 if the National Roster figures are used. Possibly an intermediate figure of 106 based upon doctorate degrees in 1941 and 1942 would be more nearly fair.

From these facts one may conclude that chemists have not been good salesmen or advertisers. The matter of starring is but one aspect of the larger problem of improving the status of chemistry. It is hoped that before the eighth edition of "American Men of Science" is published, this problem, including that of accumulated deficiencies, will be considered fully.

ROGER J. WILLIAMS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

MOLD PREVENTIVE FOR BOOK BINDINGS

IN warm climates following a protracted rainy spell, it is not uncommon to find one's book bindings supporting a heavy growth of mold, which if unchecked will disfigure the books. Mere dusting removes the superficial growth without disturbing the mold actually growing in the paste of the bindings.

Several years ago, following a wet season, the Duke Hospital Library had an epidemic of mold in two stacks of bound journals which stood near an underground ventilator drawing air from an open areaway. The author was called upon for suggestions to remedy the situation. The vent was closed and the following solution was wiped over the molded bindings:

Thymol crystals	10 grams
Mercuric bichloride	4 grams
Ether	200 cc
Benzene	400 cc

The treated volumes have never shown any tendency to mold since and any other outbreaks of mold have been similarly and effectively treated. The solution is poisonous and inflammable and should be used carefully in an open room or outdoors with no source of fire near by. It is best applied with a cotton sponge tied to a suitable applicator or held by forceps, so that none of it gets upon the fingers. The solution penetrates the bindings readily and dries rapidly, leaving no precipitate. One application is usually sufficient and the books may be returned at once to their places. It is wise to test first one corner of the binding before using the solution to discover whether the dye may run or change in any way. In our experience it has not altered the appearance of the goods nor affected the letter stampings.

The solution may, as well, be safely used on record album backs, leather boxes and luggage, but it should *never* be used on any wearing apparel.

DUNCAN C. HETHERINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY,
DUKE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
DURHAM, N. C.

FANCIFUL PORTRAITS OF ANCIENT MATHEMATICIANS

IN his "Works of Archimedes" (1897) T. L. Heath (1861–1940) remarked in the preface: "I have had one disappointment in preparing this book for the press. I was particularly anxious to place on or opposite the title-page a portrait of Archimedes." He then added that he was reluctantly obliged to abandon this plan because he could not find a reliable portrait of Archimedes after a careful search. He evidently thought it was better not to include any portrait of Archimedes than to insert a fictitious one. On the contrary, a considerable number of our mathematical text-books include fictitious portraits. Even Volume I of D. E. Smith's "History of Mathematics," which is widely used in our schools, includes such portraits.

In his review of this volume, published in *Isis*, Volume 6, page 443 (1924), George Sarton remarked: "The inclusion of fanciful portraits (for example, of Plato and Fibonacci) seems to me a serious mistake for which I can find no justification." Fortunately, the second volume of D. E. Smith's "History of Mathematics" does not contain such portraits, but they were then still widely advertised as suitable for the walls of mathematical classrooms, where they naturally mislead many students as regards the history of our subject unless it is plainly noted that they are unreliable. Even then they are frequently misunderstood.

As definite evidence of the existence of such portraits in influential mathematical text-books we may refer to the revised edition of the plane geometry by Slaught and Lennes (1918). We find here such portraits of Plato, opposite the title-page; Euclid, opposite page 66; Pythagoras, opposite page 236; and

[6] These dues have since been lowered to $7.50, but this did not affect the 1942 data.

[7] J. Cattell, SCIENCE, 100: 126, 1944.