

eps is proportional to the carbon-14 concentration in the liquid.

In our apparatus the net eps in formamide, after background correction, amounted to $1.12 \pm .01\%$ of the dps, as determined independently by wet oxidation and measurement of the radioactivity of the resulting carbon dioxide by means of a vibrating reed electrometer. Under our experimental conditions this efficiency of 1.12% remained constant over an activity range of 1,000–30,000 dps/ml, and with the following compounds, D-mannonic- γ -lactone-1- C^{14} , barium D-glucuronate-1- C^{14} , D-mannitol-1- C^{14} , and a C^{14} -labeled polysaccharide.

A. SCHWEBEL
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National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D. C.

The Professional Training of College Teachers

IN JUNE 1950 a three weeks' summer school for university teachers was held at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario. This school, which was sponsored by the National Conference of Canadian Universities, was designed to give university teachers an opportunity to improve their teaching techniques and also to discuss some of their common professional problems.

The work was essentially practical, and there were no formal courses. Each student gave brief university lectures, as well as talks to imaginary outside audiences, such as a Rotary Club. The actual listeners, however, were in all cases the other students. Each performance was freely criticized and was also tape-recorded, so that speakers might subsequently hear their own speeches and discuss them with the staff or fellow-students.

Under this friendly criticism, and with guidance from a professor who had had great experience in teaching public speaking, the students made evident progress in the quality of both what they said and how they said it. Every afternoon there were round-table discussions of problems, such as the notes of the lecturer, the notes of the student, setting and marking examination papers, organizing laboratory courses, the use of visual aids, etc.

Some of the students paid their own way, but the majority were sent to the school by their universities. At the end of the course, staff and students unanimously agreed that the experiment should be repeated, and a second school, to be held at McGill University, has been arranged for June 1951. An article describing the first school will appear in the May issue of the *British Universities Quarterly*.

McGill University

T. H. MATTHEWS

Zoological Nomenclature and Microfilm

AFTER full discussion and consideration, extending over most of one year, the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America (Sinclair, *chairman*), the Nomenclature Committee of the Society of Systematic Zoology (Blackwelder, *chairman*), and a number of zoologists acting as individuals are sending to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature the petition that appears below.

It is wisely required that matters being submitted to the International Commission be widely advertised, in order that all interested zoologists may make their opinions known. The sponsors of the petition would appreciate copies of any opinions sent directly to the commission.

PETITION

Within recent years there has arisen, at least in America, a commerce in copies of books or manuscripts photographically reproduced on 35-mm film known as "microfilm." This practice was at first a convenience to scholars, who could thus obtain copies of rare or unobtainable works for study and reference, and the microfilm was usually supplied by large libraries.

From this beginning the practice has expanded, until now not only books but unpublished typescripts are being copied and offered for sale, and microfilm is being advertised as a cheap and convenient method of "publishing" scholarly works which (because of their bulk or their lack of general appeal) would not be readily accepted by a regular publishing house. The distribution and offering for sale of such microfilm is held by some, including high academic officers, to constitute publication.

We ask the commission to rule that, regardless of its status for other purposes, material that is available to the public only in the form of microfilm is not to be considered "published" within the meaning of the *Regles*.

Should the commission prefer to have before them a definite example, may we suggest that the following case be considered:

In 1948 a paper entitled "Pre-Traverse Devonian Pelecypods of Michigan," by Aurele LaRocque, was offered for sale as "University Microfilms Publication 1059;" it consisted of a microfilm copy of a typescript and accompanying plates of photographs. This offering was advertised to an extensive mailing list of libraries and others, and the paper has been available to the public in this form since 1948. In 1950 the same paper was issued in printed form as: *Contributions from the Museum of Paleontology*, University of Michigan, Vol. 7, No. 10, (pp. 271–366, 19 plates). In this paper (in both forms) are described 3 new genera and 14 new species of pelecypods.

We ask the commission to rule that the names of these new taxonomic units are to be ignored until their appearance in printed form in 1950.

G. WINSTON SINCLAIR

University of Michigan

RICHARD E. BLACKWELDER

U. S. National Museum
Washington, D. C.