concentrated solution of its own ions at the bottom, and small crystals of tin will form upon it in the dilute solution at the top.

The specific inductive capacity of the water solution must be much higher than that of the ether solution, even after being decreased by the ions in solution, since that of pure water at room temperature is more than 75 while that of ether is less than 4.5.

The results are quite as striking when lead acetate is dissolved in the water and ether and a lead wire is used for the electrode as the tin with stannous chloride. No doubt any salt that is slightly soluble in ether may be used just as successfully as those named above.

FERNANDO SANFORD

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HERING'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issue of April 19, page 388, you announce the death of Professor Dr. Ewald Hering and refer to him as "the eminent physiologist." Permit me to add that his chief work, for which he became well known, was in physiological optics and more especially the perception of color by the eye; his work in this direction is well-known and has been frequently referred to in literature in which it was coupled with that of the famous Helmholz, with whom he was for a time a contemporary.

Early in 1911 he was knighted, at the same time that Professor Roentgen was, by having conferred upon him the decoration of the Order "Pour le Mérite" for his creditable work and scientific researches. A description of his collection of experiments demonstrating phenomena in physiological optics, some of which the writer has had the pleasure of seeing in his own laboratories in Liepzig and Prague, would make very interesting and instructive reading and ought to be published.

In one of these a band of light was thrown on a screen, which every one without hesitation would acknowledge was a bright green when, as a matter of fact, there was absolutely no green present; the sensation of green light was a purely physiological effect due to a neighboring band of its complementary color. This peculiar phenomenon has suggested to the writer that there might perhaps be some way of utilizing it to advantage in supplying an additional color to colored moving pictures.

CARL HERING

PHILADELPHIA,

REFORM OF THE WORLD'S CALENDAR

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE of April 19 appears a paper advocating "A Common Sense Calendar," by Professor Howard C. Warren of Princeton University. The changes proposed by Professor Warren would certainly prove a great improvement over the present highly archaic calendar that the world is burdened with as a heritage from our remote ancestors. But Professor Warren's scheme could be farther simplified.

The subject of a reform in the calendar was agitated quite widely some half dozen years ago; and about five years ago an international commission charged with the consideration of this subject was located in Berne, Switzerland. This commission sent out invitations to all who cared to do so, to submit suggestions upon the question of reforming the calendar, and this writer had the temerity to offer a scheme for a new calendar.

This scheme embodies one very radical change, which if accepted would reduce the problem to the last degree of simplicity, to wit, the division of the year into thirteen lunar months of four complete weeks, or twenty-eight days each. It was proposed to intercalate a thirteenth month (with the suggested name of Sol) between July and August of the existing calendar.

The extra day in each year should be disposed, as suggested by Professor Warren, that is, inserted between the last day of the old and the first day of the new year. The year might be made to begin on a day more in accord with nature's harmonies, that is, in the beginning of spring instead of the middle of winter; but that is not a vital matter. The extra day to be dealt with every fourth year, to be called "Leap Day," might be conveniently inserted bewteen two of the summer months.