

zoology at the University of Redlands, California.

DR. J. R. CURRIE, a senior medical officer of the Scottish Board of Health, has been appointed to the chair of preventive medicine in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

DR. H. STANLEY ALLEN, of the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed to the chair of natural philosophy in the United College, St. Andrews, which has become vacant by the retirement of Professor Butler.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF TECHNICAL JOURNALS

It is a not uncommon practice for members of the faculties of our colleges, universities, and other schools to enrich the libraries of these institutions by donating copies of technical journals received by the individual either by subscription or by virtue of membership in some scientific society. This loyalty to the local institution is natural and laudable from the standpoint of the institution, but it may, perhaps, not be realized that if every one of our colleges and universities were to depend upon such gifts for their files of scientific periodicals there would shortly, in the case of many such publications, not be any journal to donate, so inadequate is the financial support of scientific publications.

With the exception of those journals, such, for example, as the chemical journals, which have a large and financially profitable circulation among practical workers outside of libraries and faculties, many of our journals devoted to pure science are barely, or not at all, able to exist except for generous subsidies. Outside of members of societies of which the publications may be the official organ, paid subscriptions may be expected only from a very few individuals not members, from a very small number of public libraries in our larger cities, and from educational institutions.

It is a matter of record that many of our journals devoted to publishing the results of research do not have subscriptions from more than a small fraction of American institutions

maintaining a department in the given science, and in many cases this results because some member of the departmental staff contributes his personal copy to the library.

One of our biological journals recently faced the necessity of either securing a generous additional subsidy, or of increasing its subscription rate by one dollar a year, or of suspending publication. The subsidy was not forthcoming and so the subscription price was advanced. Notice to this effect was followed by cancellation of subscription, not by one of our private, struggling, small colleges, but by one of the largest of our state universities. The letter of cancellation stated that the institution would hereafter depend upon a donated copy.

The existence of all of the journals of the class referred to is a matter of vital importance to the colleges and universities. None of them is maintained for its own sake as a business venture. Practically all of them were established because of the impossibility of securing the publication of the results of research with any degree of promptness—often not within a year or eighteen months, or even longer, after the completion of the manuscript.

Our colleges and universities should regard practically all of these journals as established primarily for their advantage, and the journals in turn are justified in expecting support from these institutions to the extent of at least one subscription. The donation of personal copies by professors to the library of their institution may help the library to the extent of a few dollars, but the present extent of this practice is depriving journals, indispensable to donor and benefactor alike, of hundreds of dollars each of support annually.

It is an interesting but regrettable fact that, while it is comparatively easy to obtain money for research, nothing is much more difficult to secure funds for than the publication of the results of research.

C. STUART GAGER

ACOUSTICAL RESEARCH

THE quotation from the London *Times* on the subject of Acoustical Research (November 3, 1922) conveys an impression which seems to need correction.

In justice to the life-long labors of the late Professor W. C. Sabine, now gathered into a volume of Collected Papers on Acoustics (Harvard University Press), it should be said that the practical problem of predicting the acoustics of an ordinary auditorium in advance of its construction, or of correcting one already built, was solved by Professor Sabine some twenty years ago. The essential feature to be considered in such a problem is the reverberation and Sabine's papers on this subject are full and complete. Other acoustic questions are, of course, sometimes involved such as the transmission of sound through walls, the effect of resonance, etc. Several of these had also been the subject of prolonged experimental investigation by Professor Sabine at the Jefferson Physical Laboratory at Harvard but some of the results were withheld until the work could be completed. His untimely death interrupted this program, and since then the work has been continued here and at the Acoustical Laboratories at Riverbank, Illinois, under the direction of Dr. Paul E. Sabine, as described in Mr. Munby's article in *Nature*, October 28, 1922.

Architects in this country have become aware of the importance of Sabine's results and scores of cases could be cited in which the application of the principles worked out by him has led to complete success. The opinion that "Architects are still unable to predict with certainty the acoustic properties of the halls and chambers they design" implies a lack of respect for Sabine's profoundly accurate and thorough work which I am sure no one will maintain who has taken the trouble to acquaint himself with the subject.

THEODORE LYMAN,
Director

JEFFERSON PHYSICAL LABORATORY,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

AUSTRIAN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The present financial difficulties of scientific and technical journals have no doubt come to the attention of many readers of SCIENCE. I am tempted to call their attention to a specific case by quoting

a recent letter from William Ford Upson, American trade commissioner in Vienna:

On a pathetic appeal of Professor Wilhelm Exner, an eminent Austrian scientist, president of the Technisches Versuchsamts, I am sending to the Bureau of Standards, with my compliments, the *Mitteilungen des Technischen Versuchsamtes* for one year. The publication is in sore straits for lack of funds and its ambition is to get 100 foreign subscriptions at \$1.00 per year each, to enable it to continue publication, but its efforts have proved unavailing except that I am sending out a few copies at my own expense. Could you help in the good work in any way?

The Bureau of Standards is already a subscriber to this publication, but I trust that the above appeal will put other research laboratories or libraries on the subscription list.

WILLIAM F. MEGGERS

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

AN APPEAL

ONE hundred Russian university and professional men, mostly scientists, many of them internationally famous, recently exiled from Russia by the Soviet government, are in Berlin in serious circumstances. Local charity is housing and feeding them, but they lack sufficient clothing, shoes and pocket money to get through the winter without acute distress. An appeal has come to the American Relief Administration for one thousand dollars to provide some relief (averaging only \$10 a man) for these exiles. Unfortunately all of the A. R. A. funds must be spent for relief inside of Russia. The appeal has been turned over to me. Will the scientific men of America help these suffering scientific men of Russia?

A generous friend, Princess Cantacuzene, of Washington, has given me one half (\$500) of the sum needed. I shall be glad to be one of fifty to give \$10 each, or one of one hundred to give \$5 each, to make up the other half. I will undertake to receive the gifts and send personal receipts for them, and later obtain and publish in SCIENCE a blanket receipt from Berlin for the whole amount received and sent over-seas.

VERNON KELLOGG
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
WASHINGTON, D. C.