future source material. That would mean that the expense of publication must be borne twice: once by the journal or institution printing the author's paper, and once by the institution sponsoring the catalogue. One of these costs would be waste—and the money, if spent, should go into productive publication.

We suggest, therefore, that while efforts are being made upon the catalogue, as originally conceived by Dr. Kindle, and sponsored by the Paleontological Society, others be devoted to the problem of providing original publication, upon cards, of future original paleontologic descriptions and of significant revisionary material. This plan will demand, of course, funds for printing and for maintaining a central office where cards may be edited, published and sold; as well as international cooperation among contributing agencies and authors.

We do not minimize these problems of securing support, but the rewards to be achieved command attention. Instead of a future of widely scattered descriptions, periodically assembled and republished upon cards, the paleontologist would have those cards, bearing initial descriptions and figures, and available from a central office. Single species, instead of being buried in papers on stratigraphy, areal or economic geology, would appear upon individual cards, each under its own name and readily discoverable. Authors need not wait for the completion of long papers—nor will they resort to the almost useless "preliminary description," often published to establish priority rather than to enlighten its users. By the use of cards, one species may be published as readily as a dozen, and as readily found by other workers. The fear that a description may become "buried" will haunt neither its author nor the subsequent student, who will find the sources that he needs for study available without extended search, at a price which (if necessary) he himself can pay.

MILDRED ADAMS FENTON
CARROLL LANE FENTON

WEST LIBERTY, IOWA

AN APPEAL TO AMERICAN BIOCHEMISTS

J. L. W. THUDICHUM, pupil of Liebig, has been recognized for many years as one of the great biochemists. His splendid contributions in the field of lipoid chemistry (chemistry of brain tissue) are well known. His contributions in pigment biochemistry, not as well recognized, were also fundamental. He was the pioneer investigator of the pigments, named by him "luteins," now known as carotinoids. He also contributed outstanding papers upon the urinary pigments, bile pigments and hematoporphyrin, which he recognized as appearing in other sources besides the blood. The amino-acid "norleucin" was originally discovered by Thudichum. A number of other substances of biochemical interest began their existence as entities in the laboratory of this unusual worker, although they were rediscovered and renamed by later investigators. In the interest of science Thudichum wrote numerous texts, all replete with profound historical introductions, upon many divergent topics.

Thudichum also, somehow, found time to carry on a medical practice, using a good deal of his income to purchase platinum utensils, etc., for carrying on his researches, many of which were conducted in his private laboratory.

An interchange of communications with Dr. Otto Rosenheim (London), who for many years has been collecting data upon Thudichum's life, has brought the information that the five daughters of Thudichum are in dire financial need. The members of the American Society of Biological Chemists and others who care to do so may contribute towards a fund for them. Contributions, however small, will be highly appreciated. Checks may be mailed to Dr. David L. Drabkin, Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, who will transmit the collected fund as a contribution of American biochemists to the parties abroad.

RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN
PHOEBUS A. LEVENE
LAFAYETTE B. MENDEL

CONFERENCE ON ASTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS

A CONFERENCE on Astrophotographic Problems was held at the Harvard Observatory on March 23, on the occasion of the dedication of the new astrophotographic building. The building contains the large collection of photographic plates, the library of the observatory and many offices.

The following are abstracts of the papers presented:

The Harvard collection of astronomical photographs: ANNIE J. CANNON. The history of astronomical photography at the Harvard Observatory dates from 1850, when the first photograph of a star ever taken was made here with the 15-inch equatorial telescope. Since that time the collection of plates has grown steadily, and it now contains about 400,000 glass negatives, of sizes from 4 x 5 inches to 14 x 17 inches. The earliest plates, obtained in 1850–1852, were daguerreotypes taken under