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WE learn from *Nature* that the British Air Ministry announces that the cabinet has approved, subject to parliamentary sanction, the grant of a sum for the direct assistance of civil aviation. During the financial year 1921-22 payments under this grant will be limited to a maximum sum of £60,000, and will be made to British companies operating on approved aerial routes. The routes at present approved are London to Paris, London to Brussels, and London to Amsterdam. Extensions to these routes and additional routes, such as England-Scandinavia, on which the possibilities of a service employing flying boats or amphibian machines or a mixed service of sea and land aircraft can be demonstrated, may be approved.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made at Brown University of the completion of the Nathaniel French Davis Fund in honor of Professor Davis, now emeritus, who was for forty-one years a teacher of mathematics in the university. The fund amounts to ten thousand dollars and the income is to supplement the regular library appropriations in purchasing mathematical books and periodicals for the mathematical seminary.

DR. VICTOR C. VAUGHAN, for thirty years dean of the University of Michigan Medical School, has resigned. Dr. Vaughan has been professor of hygiene and physiological chemistry since 1884.

At Colgate University, Associate Professor A. W. Smith has been made full professor and head of the department of mathematics as successor to Professor J. M. Taylor. Professor T. R. Aude, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, has been appointed associate professor of mathematics.

DR. SOLON MARX WHITE, Minneapolis, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed chief of the department of medicine to succeed Dr. Leonard G. Rowntree, now associated with the Mayo Clinic.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *AËDES SOLLICITANS* IN FRESH WATER POLLUTED BY ACID WASTE

IT is believed to be of interest to students of mosquitoes to report the occurrence of *Aedes sollicitans*, a salt marsh mosquito, in fresh water polluted by acid waste from a "guano factory." During October, 1920, while making investigations concerning fishes in relation to mosquito control at Savannah, Georgia, in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service and the city of Savannah, the writer found mosquito larvæ in ditches which were so strongly polluted that all other animal life appeared to be extinct. The larvæ were collected from time to time and reared to the adult stage. Dr. Bassett, bacteriologist for the city of Savannah, identified the species as *Aedes sollicitans* and this determination later was verified by Dr. Dyar, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology.

The acid content of the water in the ditches where the pollution was greatest was not determined but a water sample taken downstream where the pollution had become greatly diluted and where *Aedes sollicitans* was replaced by *Anopheles crucians* and *Culex* sp. was titrated by Dr. Bassett and found to contain 2.08 per cent. of free acid and a large amount of iron. It is quite probable that the water in portions of the ditches in which the larvæ of *Aedes sollicitans* were common had an acid content of fully 3 per cent.

The larvæ occurred most frequently along the edges of the ditches among decaying vegetation and they displayed a stronger resistance to the toxicity of oil than *Culex* and *Anopheles* larvæ occurring in the more weakly polluted portions of the same ditches.

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#### THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE application made to the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for the organization of a new Section to be devoted to the History of Science was de-

nied by the council (October 17, 1920), but permission was granted for those interested in the History of Science to enter Section L on "Historical and Philological Sciences," a Section which had never been organized and existed only in name.

The special committee appointed by the president of the association for the organization of a History of Science Section, recommended, on December 16, 1920, that the words "and philological" be dropped. This recommendation was likewise rejected by the council. It is clear, therefore, (1) that the council does not deem it wise to admit a separate section on the History of Science and (2) that the organization effected in Chicago on December 29, 1920, will not meet the needs of the increasing number of men interested in the History of Science, since, at any time, those representing "Philological Sciences" and the "Historical Sciences" (whatever that term may mean), may step in and give rise to a heterogeneous, incoherent group of workers, having no interests in common. If representatives of the "Philological Sciences" and "Historical Sciences" do not appear, then Section L constitutes in reality the very kind of organization which the council decreed should not be admitted as a Section.

In the judgment of the present writer, the dignified and logical procedure for those interested in the History of Science is, therefore, to withdraw altogether from organized historical work in connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science until such time when the council and general session will be ready to welcome them into the association as a separate Section.

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#### CONCERNING "AERIAL PHOTO- HYDROGRAPHY"

In an article<sup>1</sup> describing attempts to photograph "the small coral heads and pinnacle rocks" off the coast of Florida, E. Lester Jones of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey concludes that:

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, December 17, 1920.

These experiments proved very conclusively that photographs from the air, using present-day equipment, are of little practical value to the hydrographer (p. 575).

Those interested in the study of underwater features may be interested in the opposite view published in *Comptes Rendus*.<sup>2</sup> Objects in French water were photographed to a maximum depth of 17 m. and several points of rock were revealed by the photographs which had escaped detection by other methods. ("Plusieurs têtes de roche qui avaient échappé aux levés détaillés et très exacts de ces parages ont été ainsi révélées par la photographie.") Specific instances are given where points of rock dangerous to shipping, not indicated on the hydrographic charts, were discovered by means of the photographs.

Perhaps the statement that photographs taken from the air are of little practical value is more conclusive than was intended.

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#### SOIL COLOR STANDARDS

IN order that there may be uniformity in the designation of the color of soils it is proposed that a set of color standards be prepared in which those colors which occur in soils and subsoils may be represented. Such a set of standard colors would be of great value to soil survey workers and would certainly lead to a better understanding of the descriptions of soils from the various regions of the United States and of the earth as a whole.

In order that such a set of color standards might be published representative soils from all parts of the United States would need to be examined. No doubt the Bureau of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture could lead in the work and by consultation with various State Soil Surveys and with the Soil Surveys of other nations standardize the colors and publish reproductions of them as Robert Ridgway did in his "Color Standard and Color Nomenclature" (published by

<sup>2</sup> Tome 169, 27 October, 1919.