


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name to be in all cases required as proof of good faith.
The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

How to Protect Inventions in Foreign Countries.

Is my article on protecting inventions in foreign countries, the matter quoted below should be amended, as indicated, by adding the clause in italics.

"The term, 17 years, of a United States patent is not shortened by an application filed, within 7 months of the United States application, in Belgium, France, Great Britain, Guatemala, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Servia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Tunis, or within 8 months, in Brazil or San Domingo," if the respective dates of the foreign patents are the same or later than that of the United States patent.

The error occurred through no fault of yours; but you would obligingly enable us by giving the correction.

EDWARD P. THOMPSON.

New York, June 2.

The current issue of The Weekly Bulletin of Newspaper and Periodical Literature, published at 5 Somerset St., Boston, is twice its usual size, containing a classified index of 1800 articles from recent numbers of the periodical press. The Bulletin catalogs the important articles in the leading daily and weekly papers and the monthly magazines of the United States, including Science. Its value to readers, writers, and students, is sufficiently indicated by its title, and, although still in its first volume, its success as evidenced by the current issue is a surprise to no one acquainted with its plan and purpose.

A State Academy of Science was established in Ohio last December by a few of the workers. It held its first field or summer meeting at Akron on the 3d and 4th of June. Arrangements were made for its reception by the Akron Scientific Club, and these were carried out to the evident satisfaction of the members attending. Their number was, however, diminished by a heavy downpour of rain during the preceding eight night on the two days of the meeting the weather was fine. A small steamer was engaged for the day, and both hosts and guests enjoyed together ample opportunities for study and collection, in all departments, on the banks and in the waters of several of the monarch lakes in the vicinity of Akron. In the evening a reception was held at Buchtel College, when short addresses of welcome were made by the mayor, the president of the college and the president of the club, and were suitably replied to by several of the visiting members. A short business session and a microcosmic exhibition by the students completed the programme. On Saturday the members went by an early train to the Gorge of the Cuyahoga, where they spent the

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Chemical Society, Washington.


Biological Society, Washington.

June 11.—C. Hart Merriam, The Southern Fur Seal (Arctocephalus) at Guadalupe Island; Frederick V. Coville, Uses of Plants among the Panaman Indians; J. M. Hol- stiger, On Amanants crassipes Schlechtendal- d; C. Hart Merriam, The Death Valley Expedition.

Societas Entomológica Internacional, Entomological Society, Zürich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

Annual fee, ten francs.
The Journal of the Society appears twice a month, and consists entirely of original articles on entomology, with a department for advertisements. Members are allowed to use this department free of cost for advertisements relating to entomology.
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For information address Mr. Franz Rumi, President of the Societas Entomológica Internacional, Zürich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

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day in a specially rich field for study in geology and botany, and where entomology was not lacking in opportunity. Those who were compelled to return took the afternoon trains, and a few who could remain assembled and took tea at the home of the president, where they spent the evening. The meeting broke up with the conviction that the first summer gathering of the young Academy had been a pleasant and successful occasion.

In a paper read before the Washington Chemical Society, May 12, the carbohydrates of the coffee-berry were discussed by Erwin E. Ewell. Our knowledge of the carbohydrates has been materially extended during very recent years, in consequence of which investigation in this line has been greatly stimulated. Maxwell has demonstrated the presence of an insoluble, galactose-yielding carbohydrate; Reiss has reported an insoluble carbohydrate that yields mannose by hydrolysis with dilute sulphuric acid. The water-soluble carbohydrates have received less attention; indefinite statements concerning sugar, gum, and dextrin make up the existing literature of the subject. By experiments made in the laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture, cane-sugar, accompanied by small percentages of a substance resembling dextrin and some reducing sugar, has been shown to make up the water-soluble carbohydrate material of coffee. The cane-sugar was obtained in pure and well-defined crystals. A gum was prepared from the portion insoluble in water. The latter has been shown to be a galactose and pentose-yielding substance, and is now being studied further. At the same meeting, K. F. McElroy and W. D. Bigelow described a new method for the qualitative separation of calcium and strontium, based on the solubility of calcium chromate in dilute acetone. The chlorides of these metals are dissolved in 50 per cent acetone, and a solution of potassium chromate in 50 per cent acetone added. After standing ten minutes no strontium can be detected in the filtrate, and the precipitate is practically free from calcium salts. These investigations will be continued with the hope that the separation may prove quantitative.
QUERY.
Can any reader of Science cite a case of lightning stroke in which the dissipation of a small conductor (one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, say,) has failed to protect between two horizontal planes passing through its upper and lower ends respectively? Plenty of cases have been found which show that when the conductor is dissipated the building is not injured to the extent explained (for many of these see volumes of Philosophical Transactions at the time when lightning was attracting the attention of the Royal Society), but not an exception is yet known, although this query has been published far and wide among electricians.

First inserted June 19. No response to date.

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