

DR. MANFRED CALL, formerly professor of clinical medicine, has been elected dean of the medical department of the Medical College of Virginia, at Richmond.

DR. H. M. JENNISON, for several years assistant professor of botany at the Montana Agricultural College, Bozeman, has become associate professor of botany in the University of Tennessee.

ANDREW KARSTEN (Ph.D., University of Ohio), has recently entered upon his work as head of the department of chemistry at the South Dakota School of Mines.

FREDERICK P. VICKERY, formerly of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, has been appointed assistant professor of geology and head of the department at the Southern Branch of the University of California, at Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

STELLAR DIAMETERS

THE determination of star diameters has been a matter of considerable interest since the first measures of *Betleuse* were published from the Mount Wilson Observatory. Various predictions have been made for the apparent diameter of stars by Eddington, Russell, Wilsing and Hertzsprung, based directly or indirectly upon visual estimates of brightness, color and spectral type. The recent work of Coblentz at the Lowell Observatory has afforded means of determining new curves of spectral intensities giving data for a revised correlation of temperatures and spectral types. Such information, together with the direct thermoelectric measures of stellar radiation made by Coblentz both at the Lick and the Lowell Observatories, affords the basis for the calculation of a star's surface area if its distance is known, or, wanting accurate parallax determinations, the apparent angular diameter can be computed on the grounds of black body radiation. This serves at least as an independent method of checking star diameters, and the results of its application to the three stars whose diameters have thus far been measured by the interferometer method may be of general interest, and are given below:

STAR	DIAM. FROM COBLENTZ' DATA	MT. WILSON MEASURES	PREDICTED DIAMETERS	
			Eddington	Russell
α Orionis (Betleuse)	0.045"	0.047"	0.051"	0.031"
α Scorpii (Antares)	0.036"	0.040"	0.043"	0.028"
α Bootis (Areturus)	0.018"	0.022"	0.020"	0.019"

The agreement between the diameters computed from the galvanometer deflection determined by Coblentz (*Sci. Papers Bureau of Standards*, Nos. 244, 438) and the actual measured diameters is surprisingly good. It is not easy to suppose that a star can radiate as a black body. Since, however, this assumption is fundamental in applying the laws of radiation from which the diameter is computed, it is rather remarkable to find stars radiate as nearly like black bodies as the bit of evidence herein contained would seem to show.

H. T. STETSON
HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
ASTRONOMICAL LABORATORY

TINGITIDÆ OR TINGIDÆ AGAIN

"To be or not to be"—*Tingitidæ* or *Tingidæ*? Logomachy is a "war about words." It seems that I have involved myself in such a merry war, driven thereto by my desire as a scientific editor to get at the bottom facts as to what is the correct scientific family-name to give to those insignificant, but very interesting and beautiful little creatures, commonly known as "lace-bugs." In a little article published in *SCIENCE* (N. S.), LVI, 1922, pp. 334-335, I found in favor of the family name *Tingitidæ*. Now comes that excellent entomologist, Professor H. M. Parshley, of Smith College, and reminds us that in an article published in *Psyche*, XXIII, 1916, p. 129, he had found in favor of *Tingidæ*. His argument in brief is founded upon the statements:

1. "We can not be sure that Fabricius did in fact adopt the Greek word *Τίγγις*, the name of a city."

2. "His use of the genitive *Tingis* [in a footnote] shows us that he considered the word his own and indicates what its Latin declension should be."

I regret that I had completely overlooked Professor Parshley's article, and duly apologize for the oversight. I am, however, con-

strained to state in brief that what he says does not carry conviction to my mind.

As to his first postulate I may indeed say that "we can not be sure" of anything. Fabricius has been dead for over a century, and not even through Sir Oliver Lodge or Conan Doyle can we get into touch with him and ascertain definitely what he was thinking about when he first coined the generic name we still use. But we do know that he had the *habit* of coining generic names from those of ancient towns and cities. The word *Tingis* had been in existence two thousand years before Fabricius was born and in its Greek form Τίγγις and in its Latin forms *Tingi* or *Tinge* could be found in any dictionary Fabricius might have consulted. The word was no more "his own" than hundreds of other words he used in his writings. It is difficult for me to believe that Fabricius out of the depths of his subconscious mind fished up an altogether arbitrary combination of letters, *T-i-n-g-i-s*, making out of them, as Professor Parshley says, "his own word." The nomenclatorists of the time of Fabricius had not yet reached the stage attained at a later date by some of their successors, who took random combinations of letters and then by various transpositions and combinations manufactured words without meaning, which they employed for generic and specific terms. Fabricius was a disciple of the old Linnean school and used the Latin language. I question whether he had a sense of "proprietaryship" in words.

The fact that he employs *Tingis* as the genitive only shows that he thought that this was the genitive, after the analogy of some other words in the Latin language, and that he did not take the trouble to ascertain what was the true declension of the noun he was employing. *Humanum est errare*. The genitive of the Latin noun *Tingi* or *Tinge* (the equivalent of the Greek Τίγγις, must have been *Tingitis*, as shown by the adjectival form *tingitanus*, used by Pomponius Mela, Claudius Mamertinus, *et al.* Fabricius simply made a slip in his declension, which it was easy enough to do.

With all due respect to the conclusions of Professor Parshley I contend that we are dealing with an old Latin word (found also in the

Greek, where it has an *i-stem*) and that *Tingitidæ* is the correct form of the family name, sanctioned by the use of such eminently capable scholars as Stål (by the way, an excellent linguist), Champion, Oshanin, Horvath, Osborn, Drake and a multitude of others.

W. J. HOLLAND

CARNEGIE MUSEUM,

A MINIATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC DARKROOM

NECESSITY has mothered many an inspiration. This trite exclamation was brought to mind by the sudden need of providing dark-room facilities when our commodious attic quarters were closed in order to lessen fire risk. Two alternatives suggested themselves, either to partition off a corner of a room or to construct a portable light-proof developing box. Past experience with small stuffy darkrooms was recalled, and the writer accordingly undertook to build a dark box as a venture. The convenience of this box, its adaptability to many photographic purposes, and the successful results following its use have led to the publication of this announcement in the hope that others, at present deterred from attempting photography through lack of facilities, may find that the way is easily open.

This miniature darkroom is constructed of pressed wood-pulp board nailed over a light wooden frame. Dimensions of 36 inches for width 24 inches for depth and 20 inches for height have proved to be entirely satisfactory. At the lower part of the front face an opening of about 24 by 10 inches admits the arms and hands of the operator. This opening is rendered light-proof by two thicknesses of close-woven black sateen cloth continuous with two sleeves. By having the cloth considerably larger than the opening and shirring the edges, free movement of the arms is afforded by the bulging central portion. The ends of the sleeves are made close fitting by elastic bands. Black sateen bloomers can be bought ready made and are of the exact pattern and size, with shirring and elastic fittings ready for attachment to the box. Because of looseness of weave, two superposed layers of cloth should be used.

The top of the box has a removable light-