

The Generic Names *Fenestella* and *Fenestrellina*

Dr. G. E. Condra and M. K. Elias, of the University of Nebraska, have sent a notification to the Editors of *NATURE* of a proposal to preserve the generic name *Fenestella*. The following is an abstract of the document :

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to suspend the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature in the case of *Fenestella* Lonsdale, the well-known genus of late Palæozoic Cryptostomatous Bryozoa, and retain this name as a *nomen conservandum*. The history is as follows : *Fenestella*, Bolten, 1798, for a Lamellibranch Mollusc ; synonym of *Anomia* Linnæus, 1758 ; *Fenestella*, Lonsdale, 1839, for a Cryptostome bryozoan ; genotype *F. plebeia* McCoy ; *Fenestrellina* d'Orbigny, used by Bassler for the pre-occupied name *Fenestella* Lonsdale. But the genotype of *Fenestrellina* d'Orbigny is *Fenestella crassa* McCoy, which is not congeneric with *Fenestella lebeia* McCoy. Therefore a new name is needed for the genus *Fenestella* Lonsdale *non* Bolten, unless the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature are superseded, and *Fenestella* Lonsdale is conserved. In order to avoid a new name, and because it is in every way desirable to conserve the well-known, widely adapted, and long-established Bryozoan genus *Fenestella*, it is asked that the Rules of Zoological Nomenclature be suspended in this instance, and *Fenestella* be kept as a *nomen conservandum* for the Bryozoan genus.

The University of London

THE report of the Principal on the work of the University of London during 1940-41 is distressing testimony to the wanton destructiveness of modern warfare. The wisdom of the policy of dispersal, which at one time aroused criticism, has been fully borne out by the widespread damage that many of the University buildings have sustained from air raids. This damage has already been described in *NATURE*. The teaching staff of the University has lost the services of eighty-six professors and readers, who together with many other teachers are now engaged in various forms of war work. Owing to the claims of national service the roll of internal students in the second year of war is expected to show a fall of about 40 per cent. Nevertheless, in spite of all difficulties, the essential work of the University has been carried on in a most remarkable manner. Except for certain readjustments necessitated by war conditions, no significant changes have been made in the curriculum, and examination standards have been fully maintained.

The complete range of external examinations was carried through under the scheme of decentralization. In the first year of war, external examinations were held in some forty centres overseas, and more than 1,200 students were examined. Although this operation involved the distribution of very many printed papers, and the collection of some thousands of scripts only two scripts were lost as a result of enemy action. The work of the University for its External Students has been fully maintained, in fact, in certain directions the University has extended its activities. Some hundreds of students now serving in

different branches of H.M. Forces have received assistance in continuing their work for degrees. Educational contacts have been established with Allied personnel now in Great Britain, and through the Red Cross even prisoners of war in Germany have been enabled to keep their intellectual interests alive.

Among several benefactions received during the year, the University was given an endowment by the Clothworkers' Company for a William Gilles fellowship for research in science, to the value of £220 for one year, to be awarded biennially. Dr. T. H. Sanderson-Wells has provided funds for the endowment of an occasional Sanderson-Wells Lecture, on human ailments with special reference to soil fertility. Mrs. E. L. Hamilton has presented to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine £1,500 to be used in the prevention of disease in the tropics. Developments in educational policy and organization are of necessity in abeyance, but in one direction at any rate useful preparatory work has been done, for an influential advisory board has been set up to report on the co-ordination and extension of Colonial studies and researches, for which support may be forthcoming from the Colonial Office as part of the Government plans arranged early in 1940.

Plastic White Lines for Roads

THE majority of the white lines applied to road surfaces for aiding traffic flow are prepared with white paints made from pigmented solutions of Manila resin in alcohol ; such paints are the subject of Specification BS/ARP 38. Attention has recently been given to alternative white-line materials by the Paint Research Station and the Road Research Laboratory. According to *Roads and Road Construction* of September, one of the most promising alternatives is a thermo-plastic material applied hot to the road surface as a thin layer which sets hard on cooling. This type of material has the advantage that its set does not depend on evaporation of a volatile constituent ; it hardens rapidly, allowing traffic to pass over it within a few minutes of application. It has good wear resistance and maintains a reasonably white colour. Thermoplastic materials of a proprietary type have been subjected to road tests during the past two years and in some instances have given satisfactory results. The composition now described is suitable only for open- and medium-textured road surfaces which provide a certain amount of key or mechanical grip. It may be applied to an existing road surface without insetting. A specification has been drawn up for the manufacture and application of the composition.

During the past year, trials have also been made with a number of compositions based on a light-coloured binder compounded with a white filler and a high proportion of a light-coloured sand or other fine aggregate. The filler is a mixture of equal weights of finely divided silica and the pigment titanium oxide. The binder consists of 80 per cent by weight of rosin, the remainder being crude wool grease. This composition can only be applied during spring and

summer months, in warm, dry weather. The composition is now under test; it is in satisfactory condition after five months on a busy trunk road and after ten months on a by-road, and from the results of these and other tests, a useful average life of at least six months may be expected. The colour, while not so white as that of newly painted white lines conforming to BS/ARP 38, nevertheless gives a good contrast with the road surface when observed during day- and night-driving and does not degenerate appreciably.

Health of Southern Rhodesia

IN his recently published annual report for 1939, Dr. Andrew Paton Martin, medical officer of health for Southern Rhodesia, directs attention to the decrease in the birth-rate, the increase in venereal disease and the infiltration of tuberculosis in the colony. There has been an appreciable decrease in scurvy in the mining natives, but the methods of feeding the employees are still far from satisfactory. Of the tropical diseases prevalent in Southern Rhodesia malaria is the most serious, as it caused 10 per cent of the deaths in 1939. Bilharziasis followed it close, and leprosy is a big problem, but trypanosomiasis seems to be absent.

Earthquake in Turkey

A SERIOUS earthquake with its epicentre near Agri, some 70 miles east of Erserum in Turkey, was reported on September 12. Full details are not yet available, but it is feared that the death roll may amount to 500. It will be remembered that the most severe earthquake ever experienced in Turkey took place on December 27, 1939 (see NATURE, January 6, 1940), in Anatolia, and serious aftershocks have occurred at intervals since that time. It may be that large fault blocks in the area have not yet attained their final position of equilibrium, and that parts of the subcrustal layers may still be under some elastic strain.

Earth Tremor in Scotland

ON September 6 an earth tremor shook the Stirling district in Scotland. Furniture was moved by the shock in the villages of Cambus Barrow and Whins o'Milton, but no damage is reported. Stirling district experienced a previous tremor on the night of February 2-3, 1940 (NATURE, February 10, 1940).

Bequests to the University of Sydney

THE University of Sydney has recently received a bequest of £60,000 from the estate of the late Sir Hugh Denison. This bequest is particularly valuable as it is for general scientific research, and unconditional.

The McGarvie Smith Institute of Sydney has made a grant of £9,000 in addition to earlier grants for the extension of the equipment facilities of the Animal Husbandry Farm which bears its name, and which forms an important part of the equipment of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University.

Awards of the Medical Research Council of Ireland

THE Medical Research Council of Ireland has made the following awards during the half-year ended June 30, 1941: *Training grants*: Miss D. A. Kilbride for one year from August 1, 1941, to carry out an investigation of iodine absorption by means of balance experiments; and Miss E. O'Donovan for one year from June 1, 1941, to assist in the investigation of the goitre problem by studying the retention of iodine under varying conditions of diet, the work in both instances to be done in the Department of Chemistry, University College, Cork, under the direction of Prof. J. Reilly and Dr. E. M. Mason; *Whole-time grant*: Dr. Cecil Mushatt for four months from March 1, 1941, to enable him to continue his research work at the Johns Hopkins Hospital; *Grants-in-aid*: Dr. James Deeny for six months from July 1, 1941, to investigate the relationship of vitamin C to the formation of complement and the relationship of both to immunity; Dr. D.K. Malley, to investigate the effects of the cortical hormone on a case of pre-adolescent type of adrenocortical syndrome; and Dr. J. G. Waugh, towards the expenses of his research work on sulphonamide therapy in the School of Physic, Trinity College, Dublin. The following grants have been renewed for one year: Dr. T. E. T. Bradshaw (from March 1, 1941) and Prof. Hans Sachs (from May 1, 1941). Prof. J. B. Gatenby and Dr. R. G. Cross have relinquished their grants.

Announcements

THE medal of the U.S. Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Dr. Elmer K. Bolton, chemical director of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, in recognition of his work in connexion with the development of Neoprene, Nylon and synthetic rubber.

DR. JEROME C. HUNSAKER, head of the department of mechanical engineering in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has become co-ordinator of research and development for the U.S. Navy. He will be assisted by a special board, to be composed of representatives of the chief of naval operations and the commanding officers of the Bureaux of Ships, Ordnance, Aeronautics and Yards and Docks.

PROF. WILLIAM F. DURAND, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University, has been appointed a member of the U.S. National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. He succeeds Dr. Robert E. Doherty, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who resigned his membership on July 3 to become chairman of the Production Planning Board of the Office of Production Management.

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Colonial Service: D. U. Peters, agricultural officer, Northern Rhodesia; H. A. M. Thompson, agricultural officer, Sierra Leone; C. O. Flemmich (assistant conservator of forests, Malaya), conservator of forests, Fiji.