

National Hydraulic Laboratory Urged

Engineering

A solution to the problem of what governmental agency shall be in charge of a national hydraulic laboratory, if one is to be established, is being sought in hearings before the House Rivers and Harbors Committee.

The Senate has already passed a bill which would establish a national hydraulic laboratory in the Bureau of Standards, but in hearings before the House Committee, both last session and this session, Army engineers have opposed the bill, maintaining that such a laboratory should be under War Department supervision.

Dr. A. W. Beresford, president of the Engineering Council, has appeared

“Raddage”—Continued

inches broad. It was intermediate in color between radish and cabbage, and tasted like a cabbage leaf slightly flavored with radish. It was nearly smooth—again like the cabbage. It grew into a tremendous bush, filling one end of the greenhouse where it was set. Before it died of a bacterial root rot, it had grown out of the ventilator of the greenhouse and part-way down the roof on both sides. It bore huge numbers of flowers, but never set a single fertile seed.

A recent issue of the *Journal of Heredity* contained an account of a strange cabbage hybrid originated by a Polish experimenter, C. Moldenhaver. This was a cross between cabbage and Brussels sprouts. As we have already seen, this is not so difficult a thing to get as the intergeneric cross between radish and cabbage, because cabbage and Brussels sprouts are very closely related, being simply cultivated varieties of the same species. But Mr. Moldenhaver's hybrid nevertheless has its very interesting points. It grew a tall, erect stalk, after the fashion of a plant of Brussels sprouts; only the stalk was much taller than its parent variety. On this, at each place where the small, bud-like “sprouts” usually grow, appeared a great, loose rosette of leaves, obviously trying to be a cabbage. If this hybrid could only be improved a little, making it possible to grow six or eight full-sized cabbages on a stalk instead of only one, what a fine world it would be for the makers of sauerkraut! *Science News-Letter, February 9, 1929*

There is one automobile in Russia to each 7,000 inhabitants.

in favor of the bill as it stands, declaring that the work is research work and that the work of Army engineers is definitely practical. Army engineers should be able to bring their problems to the laboratory when they desire and have research men work on them, he said.

It would be undesirable, Dr. Beresford maintains, to strike out from the bill the phrase relative to the work to be done by the Bureau of Standards, which reads: “including laboratory research relating to the behavior and control of river and harbor waters”, but to strike it out completely would be better than to change the

Calves Inherit Disease

Genetics

Calves born with “raw places” on their skin or on the mucous lining of their mouths and noses have been troublesome problems to animal breeders. They have been expensive problems, too, because they invariably die, apparently from infections contracted through the exposed surfaces. For this reason Dr. F. B. Hadley and Dr. L. J. Cole of the University of Wisconsin have conducted a study on the heredity of this defect, and have just reported their findings.

The defects observed by the two Wisconsin scientists have all occurred in herds of Holstein-Friesian cattle, but somewhat similar defects have been observed in the Brown Swiss and Shorthorn breeds. The defects in the Wisconsin Holstein-Friesian cattle all trace back to the same group of ancestors. Study of the cases where they have cropped out indicates that the lesions are due to a genetic trait of the kind known as “recessive,” which expresses itself only when both parents carry it in their germ cells. Feeble-mindedness in human beings is a familiar example of a recessive character.

To get rid of the defective strain in a herd completely and immediately would involve more drastic weeding out than would be economically justifiable; in the opinion of Dr. Hadley and Dr. Cole. They suggest instead the elimination only of bulls whose offspring show the defects and the substitution of sires whose pedigrees are clear so far as hereditary skin defects in the family are concerned.

Science News-Letter, February 9, 1929

word “including” to “excluding”.

Dr. G. K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, believes that a compromise can be effected which will please both Army engineers and civilian engineers, the latter of whom have come out strongly for the bill.

He anticipates a change in the language which would allow workers in the hydraulic laboratory under the Bureau of Standards, to engage in “laboratory research relating to the behavior and control of navigable waters at the request of the Board of Army Engineers.”

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Jewish Students Score

Psychology

Jewish college students outshine other nationalities in their class work, according to an investigation made by Prof. Henry E. Garrett, of Columbia University, reported in the *Personnel Journal*.

Professor Garrett studied the differences between 296 representative freshmen at Columbia, and found that the Jewish students are far superior both in intelligence test scores and in classroom grades. Students of Italian ancestry do better work than would be expected from their intelligence ratings, whereas with the Irish students just the reverse is the case.

“Classified as to religion, the Hebrew students rank higher than the Catholics and Protestants,” Professor Garrett reported. “There were no significant differences between Catholics and Protestants.”

Native ability may be the cause of the superiority of the Hebrew students, he suggests, but apart from this there are two other possible contributing causes:

“In the first place, it is very probable that the preparation of those Jews who apply for admission to Columbia College is on the whole better than that of the other applicants. Secondly, the standards or criteria for admission are probably somewhat higher for Jewish students.”

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Government educators say that India has made more important and far-reaching changes in higher education since 1920 than any other country.