

DuBridge and Dr Handler should be commemorated on the map as scientists or as patrons of science? And if the latter, should not the chosen names be those of presidents or politicians, not public servants who merely spend the money which the politicians have the ingenuity to raise? If, on the other hand, they are commemorated as scientists, is there not now likely to be a clamour for a much more widespread naming of places? After all, there are a great many glaciologists, to mention only one small group, with something of a right to have their names scattered on the ice. But if, as is more probable, the present practice is merely a piece of sentiment of the kind which in itself does little harm, is there not a case at this time, when scientific research in the United States is hard pressed for lack of funds, for saying that place names should not be given away, but sold? Rumour has it that in circumstances when the Liberal Party in Britain was short of money, the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George, made a substantial sum by selling knighthoods. Would it not be much more to the point if the Board on Geographic Names could be persuaded to sell off names in Antarctica to people willing to put up some fixed sum for scientific research? With luck, they could hope for \$100,000 or so for every mountain peak and perhaps even \$1 million for something as elaborate as a ridge or range. But if the sale were conducted by public auction, it would be a great public service to see who bids and for what.

100 Years Ago



Fleas may live as long as nine months. Scarcely any observations have been made on the length of life in the molluscoidea and mollusca. Fish appear to have great tenacity of life. Thus, the carp is believed to have attained the age of 150 years, and the pike 267 years, if a ring with the following inscription is genuine—"I am the fish which was first of all put into this lake by the hands of the Governor of the Universe, Frederick II., the 5th of October, 1230." It weighed 350lbs., and was 19 feet long. Its skeleton was exhibited at Mannheim, and it was taken at Halibrum in Suabia in 1497. Of the Amphibia, the toad lives 36 years, the frog 12 to 16, and various tortoises are inferred to be of great age from their size. Amongst birds, the parrot, goose, falcon, and raven are long-lived, the two former reaching 100 to 120 years, and the two latter exceeding 150 years. Wrens only live two or three years. Amongst mammals, the whale and elephant have the longest term of life, both probably exceeding 100 years, and possibly reaching 200; horse 25, but occasionally reaching 40 years; ox 15 to 20 years; sheep and goat 12 years; lion 20 to 50 years; cat 9 to 18 years.

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OLD WORLD

SOVIET UNION

Lysenko Rides Again

by our Soviet Correspondent

ZHOREZ MEDVEDEV, author of the history of the Lysenko period and until recently the director of the Laboratory of Molecular Radiobiology at Obninsk, has been arrested and detained in a mental hospital. This has emerged from protests signed by a particularly eminent group of Soviet scientists which includes Academician Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear physicist whose second critique of the Soviet system was published two months ago, the physicists Petr Kapitsa and Valentin Turchin, the biochemist Vladimir Engelhardt, the biologist Vladimir Astaurov and Aleksandr Tvardovskii, the recently dismissed editor of Russia's leading literary monthly, *Novyi Mir*.



Zhorez A. Medvedev.

Yet Dr Medvedev is at least as significant for Soviet science as those who have bombarded the authorities with telegrams on his behalf. When, on Friday, May 29, Medvedev was arrested at his home in Obninsk and removed to a mental hospital in Kaluga, some 120 miles from the capital, his twin brother, Roi Medvedev, stated that this was due to Zhorez having openly protested against the "senseless barriers" imposed by the Soviet authorities between communication and cooperation among Soviet scientists and their colleagues abroad, and against the system of postal censorship imposed by those authorities.

Roi Medvedev neglects to mention his brother's chief offence in the eyes of the government, which must surely outweigh any bootleg protest literature intended