

GIVES \$350,000 TO START NEW SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

The Rockefeller Foundation of New York has appropriated \$350,000 to finance a new scientific periodical, it was announced by the National Research Council. The new journal will be known as "International Biological Abstracts", and is to give in condensed form a monthly summary of all publications in the fields of botany, zoology, bacteriology and kindred subjects. There are at present two similar but smaller journals covering parts of the field, "Botanical Abstracts", and "Bacteriological Abstracts". The new periodical will absorb and replace these, and in addition cover scientific territory at present not taken care of.

The expenditure of the \$350,000 initial endowment will take care of editorial and office expenses for ten years, so that subscriptions will need to support only the actual costs of printing and distribution. Publication will begin in January, 1926.

LEARNS HOW PUSSY LANDS RIGHT SIDE UP

How does a cat know how to land right side up when she is dropped? The answer is, according to Prof. R. Magnus of Utrecht, Holland, that she doesn't need to "know" at all, at least consciously.

In the course of experiments to determine the nature of the "sense of right side-upness" possessed by all animals, Prof. Magnus put the forebrain of a cat, where consciousness resides, out of commission by an operation, and then dropped the animal upside down. Every time he did it, pussy righted herself just as quickly and as easy as though she had full possession of her faculties. Prof. Magnus therefore concludes that keeping right side up is simply a mechanical or reflex action, quite beneath the dignity of attention from the higher brain centers.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

MARINE PRODUCTS OF COMMERCE: By Donald K. Tressler, Ph.D. 762 pages.
New York: The Chemical Catalog Company, Inc. 1924.

Though intended to be sort of monographic commercial handbook, full of quantities and prices and with a tail of economic tables tacked on behind, Dr. Tressler's work will bring to any imaginative person a whiff of romance with every chapter. Read the list of a few chapter heads: Salt from Sea Water, Iodine and Potash from Seaweeds, Pearls and the Pearl Industry, The Precious Coral Industry, Marine Turtles and Terrapins, the Whaling Industry, Seals and Walruses, Sponges. And a half-dozen or more of chapters about fishes and fisheries. It is a very useful book to the time water business man, no question; but there will be times when he will catch himself wanting to run away and go to sea.

Railroads consume more steel than any other industry, buying 27.5 per cent of the total putput.