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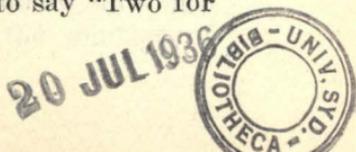
## THE GROWTH OF OUR LANGUAGE.

ENGLISH is a language which is changing from day to day, so that words and terms which are, this year, slang or popular expressions, tomorrow will either have disappeared or will have been accepted as current and proper words to use.

One of the most marked changes of this century has been in the acceptance and use by the public of words and phrases which have come from the laboratory; from which we realise the responsibility accepted by the scientists in making new words which are to pass into the English language.

Conferences of scientists meet, and decide on the advisability for a word to express a particular idea; the word is then rigorously defined in its interpretation; but frequently it is not a well chosen word that is thus honoured. This is often due to the fact that, prior to its acceptance and definition, a word has become so generally employed as to make it the obvious one to serve for the purpose; its existence is recognised and legitimised by consent. That is an argument against the general acceptance of a word which anyone who uses it sufficiently often is able to force upon the language.

We are living in a period when all educated people have a general elementary knowledge of science, and one in which the children, by their acceptance as commonplace of occurrences and instruments which their grandparents did not even imagine, are compelling their seniors rapidly to add to their vocabularies. You can call to your own mind terms obviously invented by the younger generation which have been forced upon all people, whether they like them or not, merely because the words are there and have been there sufficiently long to be generally employed. Mrs. Battle used to suffer at cribbage because she could not bring herself to say "Two for



his Nob"; and many a person today shudders slightly when referring to "The Talkies". I wonder what the final word will be that slips into an Oxford Dictionary of the future to express the combination of Television and Talkie.

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## CAVES AND CAVERNS: THEIR INTEREST FOR CHEMISTS AND GEOLOGISTS.

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Caves, whether they be holes in the ground, gapes in the mountain side, or wounds in the rocky face of a sea cliff, have always played a romantic part in the history and literature of the world; mystery dwells about their thresholds, while their pitchy halls and hidden ways are the home of fairies, gnomes and sibyls, of dwarfs that toil at Vulcan's bidding. From caves, too, spake the oracles, voices of destiny heard beside the cradle and the death-bed of pagan nations.

Primitive man made caverns his home, peoples of early civilization made then their burying-places. In many parts of the world caves are natural museums which gathered through the ages relics not only of man and his tools and weapons, but of many varied kinds of animals and birds. Who would imagine the hyena, tiger, bear, rhinoceros, elephant or hippopotamus roaming in England? Yet English caves hold the bones of these animals besides those of a more familiar kind. Caves have been used successfully as hiding-places, retreats and strongholds for bandits, smugglers, pilgrims, prophets, kings.

During the Great War certain English caves were used for the storage of ammunition. During the war between Great Britain and the United States in 1812 the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky played its part in the crude manufacture of one of the essential ingredients of gunpowder. Calcium nitrate from cave deposits was leached in vats within the cave itself, and the solution pumped to open-air boilers. The concentrated liquor was run through wood ashes, boiled again, and cooled in wooden troughs. The crystals of potassium nitrate so formed were packed for transportation by primitive methods to the seaboard. The war would have ended in complete failure for the