

able to visit the experimental farms belonging to the University of Bonn, where they see the results of various experiments and actual farm operations. In this way men who are farmers obtain an insight into the scientific principles of their subject, while the novices receive a grounding which will be of value in later years. The students are allowed to use the excellently equipped laboratories of the University, and at weekly meetings students give their agricultural experiences in various parts of the world, and the discussion at these meetings supplies some valuable information.

THE Ministry of Health Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on April 9. When before the Standing Committee dealing with the Bill, the measure was, in opposition to the wish of the Government, amended in such a way as to transfer from the Board of Education to the Ministry of Health the responsibility for the medical inspection and treatment of school children. In the House of Commons on April 9, when the Bill returned for further consideration, Dr. Addison proposed to add to it words to the effect that the Minister of Health may make arrangements with the Board of Education respecting the submission and approval of schemes of local education authorities and the payment of grants to these authorities, so far as such schemes and payment relate to or are in respect of medical inspection and treatment; and the powers and duties of the Minister may under any such arrangements be exercised and performed by the Board on his behalf and with his authority under such conditions as he may think fit. After some discussion, and the insertion of words in the amendment confining its scope to medical inspection and treatment, it was agreed to. In other words, it is now possible for the Minister of Health, should he so desire, to delegate to the Board of Education those of his powers which have hitherto been administered by the Board.

In *School Hygiene* for November last Dr. James Kerr writes on "Congenital or Developmental Aphasia." He points out that although the bibliography on the subject is fairly large, yet little attention has been paid to the theoretical importance and wide bearings of congenital aphasia, when it exists apart from coarse nervous defects. The cases may be conveniently grouped, according to the leading symptom, as graphic and auditory aphasia, of which auditory aphasia, being more fixed by heredity, is less common. Dr. Kerr reviews and criticises the various theories put forward with regard to these cases, and points out that aphasics are sufficiently numerous to warrant more care than they can receive in the ordinary schools. Children who suffer from word-blindness may be highly intelligent in all other respects, and for their best development require special treatment in a children's institute or psychological observational school. Every school population exceeding 100,000 requires some such institute. If the particular brain defect is diagnosed early, many, though not all, are capable of much educational improvement, and the defect so compensated that for practical purposes the individual may be considered normal. If not treated, such children tend to swell the numbers in prisons and asylums.

THE League for the Promotion of Science in Education, formed by the Committee on the Neglect of Science, which arranged a very successful conference at the Linnean Society in 1916, is organising another conference, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., on April 30, at 2.30 p.m. The following resolutions will be submitted to the conference:—(1) That this conference directs attention to the continued neglect of science in the country, and

calls upon the Government to make immediately such changes in all administrative Departments as shall ensure therein an adequate representation of scientific men. (2) That this conference anxiously awaits a statement on the part of the Government as to the measures it proposes to take to carry out the recommendations set forth in the report of Sir J. J. Thomson's Committee on Natural Science in the Educational System of Great Britain. (3) That this conference, whilst fully recognising the value of a literary training, is, nevertheless, of the opinion that the present public school and university system fails to produce that activity of mind and breadth of knowledge which are essential in a liberal education and necessary for dealing satisfactorily with modern problems. It therefore calls for a closer co-operation between education and industry, and for this purpose emphasises the importance of appointing to head-masterships men of high scientific attainments. No tickets of admission are required, and the Council of the League hopes that there will be a large assembly at the conference to support these resolutions, and thus assist in securing action upon them.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Linnean Society, April 3.—Sir David Prain, president, in the chair.—W. B. Brierley: An albino mutant of *Botrytis cinerea*, Pers. The fungus *Botrytis cinerea* possesses characteristic black sclerotia, the colouring matter being deposited in the walls of the outer two or three layers of cells. Among the black sclerotia in a pedigree culture a single colourless sclerotium was formed, and on isolation this gave rise to a strain characterised by colourless sclerotia. Morphologically and physiologically the parent and mutant strains are identical, and the only difference is the lack of colouring matter in the latter. A generation of the fungus may be obtained in three days, and the two strains tested over very many generations under the most diverse conditions have proved absolutely constant. As the colourless form arose in a "single-spore" culture, it cannot represent a strain selected out from an original population; and as *Botrytis cinerea* is asexual, the possibility of the new form being a segregant from a heterozygous parent is eliminated. Furthermore, the occurrence of colourless sclerotia in this fungus has heretofore been unknown either in Nature or when the fungus was grown on culture media. There would, therefore, seem no reason to doubt that the colourless form described is an instance of true mutation in the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*.—Dr. J. D. F. Gilchrist: The post-*puerulus* stage of *Jasus lalandii* (Milne-Edw.), Ortmann. This paper carried on the investigation already published in the *Journal of the Linnean Society. Zoology* (vol. xxxiii., 1916, pp. 101-25, pls. 12-17, with 12 text-figures), as "Larval and Post-Larval Stages of *Jasus lalandii*," etc. The New Zealand crayfish is now considered to be identical with this Cape species, and found to be of wide distribution. The stage here described is that immediately following the "*puerulus*" stage; it represents the transition to the adult form. The specimens were obtained by trawling in Table Bay and taken to the marine laboratory at St. James, near Cape Town, where the observations now recorded were made. The author gives minute descriptions, illustrated by drawings similar to those in his previous paper.—Dr. H. H. Mann: Variation in flowers of *Jasminum malabaricum*, Wight. In the forests of the Western Ghats of Bombay, during the month of April, the jungle is covered with flowers of this fragrant and attractive climber. Between April 13 and 20 1916,

the author had examined 2789 flowers for the corolla, and found from five lobes in 0.33 per cent. to a maximum of eight lobes in 40 per cent., declining to a percentage of 0.04 for those with twelve lobes. Similarly, the teeth of the calyx were examined in 3560 flowers at the same time, and showed with four teeth 2.56 per cent., with five and six lobes the maximum with respective percentages of 46.26 and 47.81, the last being of eight teeth with 0.22 per cent.

Aristotelian Society, April 7.—Prof. Wildon Carr in the chair.—A. F. Shand: Emotion and value. Intrinsic value, whether in external things or in the constituents of the mind, is not a simple, static quality that can be found in some things, but about which nothing further can be said. It is essentially dynamical. It presupposes always something on which it can act, with which it has affinity, and the power of acting on this thing in certain ways. Such value cannot, therefore, be wholly contained in or confined to the thing which possesses it; for a condition of intrinsic value is the power of propagating the same kind of value in the other thing with which it has affinity. But this power, though a part and condition of this value, does not sum it up. For things would not have power to produce excellent effects unless there were something excellent in their own nature. Fear, anger, and hate have one kind of effect; joy, admiration, and love have an opposite kind. The power of each depends on its own nature. The power which is a condition of intrinsic value is therefore also conditioned by it.

Zoological Society, April 8.—Dr. S. F. Harmer, vice-president, in the chair.—Dr. F. E. Beddard: Three foetal sperm whales. Attention was directed to the smallest foetus exhibited, which measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length.—L. T. Hogben: The progressive reduction of the jugal in the Mammalia.—G. A. Boulenger: Two new lizards and a new frog from the Andes of Colombia.—R. I. Pocock: Structural characters by which the genera of Felidae may be distinguished from each other. Special attention was directed to the formation of the feet in the cheetah (*Acinonyx*), to the modifications of the hyoid apparatus in the lions, tigers, leopards, and jaguars (*Panthera*), and to the position of the partition in the auditory bulla in other genera.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Sands: Considered Geologically and Industrially under War Conditions. By Prof. P. G. H. Boswell. Pp. 38. (Liverpool: At the University Press.) 1s. net.

Organic Chemistry; or, Chemistry of the Carbon Compounds. By V. von Richter. Edited by Profs. R. Anschütz and G. Schroeter. Vol. i.: Chemistry of the Aliphatic Series. Translated and revised by Dr. P. E. Spielman. Second (revised) edition. Pp. xvi+719. (London: Kegan Paul and Co., Ltd.) 21s. net.

Food (War) Committee, Royal Society. Report on the Composition of Potatoes Grown in the United Kingdom. Pp. 31. (London: Harrison and Sons.) 2s.

Yorkshire Type Ammonites. Edited by S. S. Buckman. Part xviii. (London: W. Wesley and Son.)

A Summary of My Theory of the Sun. By Dr. A. Brester. Pp. 62. (The Hague: W. P. Stockum and Son.)

Carburettors, Vaporisers, and Distributing Valves Used in Internal-Combustion Engines. By E. Butler. Second edition. Pp. viii+288. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd.) 12s. 6d. net.

NO. 2581, VOL. 103]

The Mica Miner's and Prospector's Guide. By A. A. C. Dickson. Pp. viii+50. (London: E. and F. N. Spon, Ltd.) 4s. 6d. net.

Birds Beneficial to Agriculture. By F. W. Frohawk. Pp. vi+47+22 plates. Economic Series, No. 9, British Museum (Natural History). (London: British Museum, Natural History.) 2s.

Report on Cetacea Stranded on the British Coasts during 1918. By Dr. S. F. Harmer. Pp. 24. (London: British Museum, Natural History.) 3s. 6d.

T.N.T. Trinitrotoluenes and Mono- and Dinitrotoluenes: Their Manufacture and Properties. By G. C. Smith. Pp. vii+133. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd.) 8s. 6d. net.

The Life of Matter: An Inquiry and Adventure. Edited by A. Turnbull. Pp. xviii+324+iv plates. (London: Williams and Norgate.) 7s. 6d. net.

Calcul des Valeurs Absolues. By D. Riabouchinsky. Pp. 113. (Copenhagen.)

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 6.—Major A. C. Fuller: The Fullerphone, and its Application to Military and Civil Telegraphy.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—Dr. W. T. Calman: Marine Boring Animals.—Noel Taylor: A Unique Case of Asymmetrical Duplication in the Chick.—Geo. Jennison: A Chimpanzee in the Open Air in England.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Gyroscopics. By Sir G. Greenhill, F.R.S.	121
A Physiologist's Contribution to War Surgery. By H. H. D.	122
Introductory Meteorology. By Sir Napier Shaw, F.R.S.	123
Our Bookshelf	124
Letters to the Editor:—	
The Finger-print System in the Far East.—Cav. Filippo de Filippi, K.C.I.E.	125
Supposed Effect of Sunlight on Water-drops.—Prof. G. H. Bryan, F.R.S.	125
A South African Pioneer. (Illustrated.) By Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.	125
Part-time Education in the United States	127
The Future of Scientific Industries	128
Dr. Henry Wilde, F.R.S. By W. W. H. G.	129
Notes	130
Our Astronomical Column:—	
Observed Changes on Jupiter	134
Drawings of Mars	134
The Gegenschein or Counterglow	134
Tycho Brahe's Original Observations	134
The Development of Airship Construction	134
Experiments in Psychical Research	135
Meeting of the British Medical Association	136
Agricultural Research in Madras	137
Uses of Invisible Light in Warfare	138
University and Educational Intelligence	138
Societies and Academies	139
Books Received	140
Diary of Societies	140

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