

In several cases it has been found that the mycelium in the cortex penetrates the epidermis and produces masses of conidiophores on the outside of the stem, which is rougher and coloured light-brown in those areas.

On rare occasions a few conidiophores with conidia are found projecting into the pith cavity, in regions where formation of oospores is taking place.

E. S. SALMON.  
W. M. WARE.

Mycological Department,  
South-Eastern Agricultural College,  
Wye, Kent.

#### Seed Dissemination of Nematoda.

RECENT American workers have directed attention to the fact that Nematoda attacking certain plants are regularly disseminated in the seeds of their host.

Whilst working on the relation of *Tylenchus dipsaci* Kühn to one of its common host plants, namely, the oat, the occurrence of various Nematoda between the pales was observed. Some correlation between such occurrence and a relatively poor development of the plant was also observed. Various genera were identified, notably *Tylenchus* and *Diplogaster*, but the forms most commonly present were small larvae so immature that accurate identification was not possible.

Seeds known to be so infected and germinated under sterile conditions were, on later examination, found to harbour numbers of Nematoda of a species of the genus *Cephalobus*. It seems, therefore, that dissemination in seed must be accepted as one at least of the normal methods of spread of the species in question. Special interest attaches to this, for so long ago as 1906 Marcinowski showed that *Cephalobus elongatus* Sch. was capable of injury to cereals, while Steiner has recently shown that the species *C. subelongatus* Cobb. may cause damage to the foliage of Phlox plants.

W. E. H. HODSON.

Department of Plant Pathology,  
Seale-Hayne Agricultural College,  
Newton Abbot, Devon.

#### Observed Stark Effect Patterns in Helium.

RECENTLY I have taken photographs of the Stark effect in helium which show quite clearly that the parhelium principal series line  $\lambda 3965$  has the pattern 1/1 (*i.e.* one component plane polarised parallel to the field, and one component circularly polarised perpendicular to the field) instead of the complex pattern 3/3 reported by T. Takamine and N. Kokubu (Mem. Coll. Sci., Kyoto, 3, 275, 1919). With improved experimental conditions, the new spectrograms prove that the simple displacements (1/1) reported by Stark and Nyquist for the members of the sharp and principal series are correct, and that the complex analyses claimed for some of these lines by Takamine and Kokubu were due to insufficient control over the Lo Surdo tube.

A further point of interest is the appearance of a new weak perpendicular component of the parhelium combination line  $\lambda 384$ . In a field of 40 kv./cm. this line has two components with wave numbers 22832.8 and 22839.0. This completes the pattern 2/2 for all members of the combination series  $2P - mP$ ,  $m = 4$  to 7 inclusive.

Two examples of the pattern 2/3 have been brought to light in this investigation. (1) The parhelium diffuse series line  $\lambda 4922$ , in an electric field of 45 kv./cm., is found to have components with the following wave numbers:

par. 20293.9, 20295.8  
perp. 20293.9, 20295.8, 20302.3; densities  $\frac{4, 5}{1, 2, 7}$ .

(2) The accompanying photograph (Fig. 1) shows two orthohelium lines in electric fields. As usual, a double image prism has been used to separate the parallel (upper) and perpendicular components. At the top of the photograph there appears to be but one line—the diffuse series doublet  $\lambda 4472$ . Since this is not resolved, the analysis shown here is assumed to be that of the stronger component. In high fields, near the cathode, this line is deflected toward the left and split into two components. A very faint line in the normal undisplaced position is due to stray light not emitted by the main source. It is useful as a line of reference. Immediately at the right may be seen the combination line  $2p_1 - 4b$  making its appearance in a very low field (Harry Nyquist, *Phys. Rev.*, 10, 226, 1917). This line has the pattern 2/3. Most of the components are over-exposed in order to show the new perpendicular component. The insert is a photograph of the perpendicular component of He  $\lambda 3965$  in fields up to about 50 kv./cm.

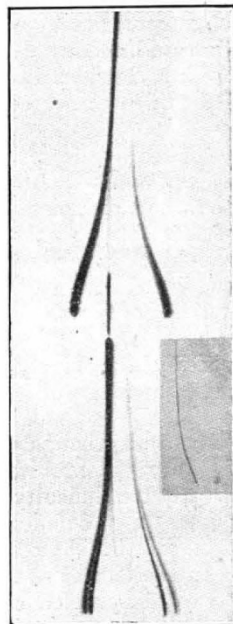


FIG. 1.—Orthohelium group  $\lambda 4472$  in electric field, and, on right, perpendicular component of He  $\lambda 3965$ .

These patterns for helium series lines are identical with those claimed for the corresponding hydrogen fine structure components in the theory given by H. A. Kramers (*Zs. f. Phys.*, 3, 199, 1920).

J. STUART FOSTER.

McGill University, Montreal, Canada,  
June 15.

#### The Word "Australopithecus" and Others.

WHEN Dr. Bather hints (*NATURE*, June 20, p. 947) that the word "Homosimiidæ" is not correctly compounded, he probably means that the compounding stem of *homo* is *homi-*, as in the Latin *homicida*. But "Australopithecus" is also incorrectly formed, for the compounding stem of *australis* is *australi-*.

Why will people venture to invent new names without consulting an etymologist? Neglecting this precaution, even a good classical scholar may flounder.

F. J. ALLEN.

8 Halifax Rd., Cambridge,  
June 28.

#### Cancer Research.

REFERRING to the recent work on cancer by Dr. W. E. Gye, the statement in *NATURE* of July 18, p. 107, that Dr. Gye was "assisted by Mr. J. E. Barnard and Dr. J. A. Murray," which has also appeared elsewhere, attributing to me a direct participation in the work of Dr. Gye and Mr. Barnard, requires correction.

The very generous acknowledgment in Dr. Gye's paper in the *Lancet* sums up all my association with his researches. I should be lacking in candour if I permitted the suggestion of a closer collaboration to pass without a disclaimer.

J. A. MURRAY.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund,  
8-11 Queen Square, London, W.C.1.