

glyphs presented in a work so accessible and recent as Dr. Antonio Penafiel's "Nombres Geograficos de Mexico ; Estudio Jeroglifico," it is scarcely excusable for those who study American archæology either to overlook or to misunderstand this system of writing.

D. G. BRINTON.

Media, Pa., Sept. 19.

#### A CURIOUS EAR OF INDIAN CORN.

A CURIOUS freak of nature was recently discovered in a garden in this city. A stalk of maize or Indian corn failed to develop any ears at the regular places in the axils of the leaves, but instead a single spike of pistillate flowers (an ear) appeared at the end of the central pedicel of the tassel. This ear was about three inches in length, and apparently well formed, except that it lacked glumes. So being exposed to the sun its color was light green. The styles were perfectly developed, and six inches to a foot in length. The places of a few of the grains were occupied by staminate flowers.

Unfortunately this ear was not allowed to grow, and I am unable to say whether it would have developed any perfect grains or not.

Is it a reversion to some ancient form, or only an accidental variation?

O. H. HERSHEY.

Freeport, Ill.

#### A MOUSE DESTROYING ITS YOUNG.

I ONCE had an opportunity of studying a mouse in a cage with a revolving wheel which it was fond of turning, as squirrels are larger but similar wheels. This cage had an apartment over the wheel in which it built a nest from

cotton furnished to it. It gave birth to three young mice in the lower apartment, and after a little while removed them to the nest above. One of these young fell out of the nest to the space below. The mother carefully carried it back again. It fell out a second time and was once more replaced. It fell out a third time. The mother then seized it as if angry and unwilling to waste her energies on so troublesome an offspring, and devoured it with no more feeling than if it had been a bit of cheese.

M. L. HOLBROOK.

#### GENEALOGICAL TABLE OF PLANTS.

COULD you or any of the readers of *Science* inform me through your columns where I can find a printed list or table showing the supposed relationships of the commonest genera of plants under the theory of evolution? In other words, I should wish to find a genealogical table of plants from the earliest times to the present day. Has any such work been attempted?

THOMAS MARWICK.

New York, Sept. 21, 1893.

#### NUMBER-FORMS.

NUMBER-FORMS, such as described by Mr. Martin and Mr. Talcott Williams in recent issues of *Science*, were first brought to notice by Mr. Francis Galton in *Nature*, Jan. 15, 1880. In his "Inquiries into Human Faculty" (Macmillan, 1883) there are illustrations of more than fifty varieties of number-forms. A still larger number is given in a recent book by Flournoy (*Des Phénomènes de Synopsie*, Alcan., 1893).

J. McKEEN CATTRELL

Columbia College, N. Y., Sept. 19.

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"The Conchologist: a Journal of Malacology," Vols. 1 and 2, with wood cuts and plates, value 12/- will exchange for any works or pamphlets on American Slugs or Anatomy of American Fishes. W. B. Collinge, Mason College, Birmingham, England.

I wish to exchange a New Model Hall Typewriter, price \$30, for a Daylight Kodak, 4x5 preferred. George A. Coleman, Dep't. Agric., Div. of Ornithology, Washington, D. C.

Exchange.—The undersigned is desirous of obtaining correspondents interested in macro-lipoptera, in Alaska, the far Western, Southwestern and Southern States. Will also exchange rare lepidoptera for entomological literature. Levi W. Mengel, Reading, Penn.

Wanted to exchange—Medical books, Obstetrical Transactions, London, Works of Sir J. Y. Simpson, Beck's Medical Jurisprudence. Handbook for the Physiological Laboratory, by Burnton, Foster, Klein and Sanderson, Quain's Anatomy, and about fifty others. Catalogues given. Want Geological, Botanical and Microscopical books in exchange. Dr. A. M. Edwards, 11 Washington St., Newark, N. J.

#### Wants.

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