through, but smaller at the inner opening than the outer. Having entered by this means he seemed unable to increase the hole by digging from the inside upward and could not return as he came. When one hole was blocked up by stones, he dug from the outside another, but could never leave the basement unless the doors were opened for him.

In regard to "late blooming trees," I had a flowering almond which bloomed in April, then again in October, and again in April. It was a young shrub, and grew vigorously. I concluded that the October blooming was provoked by very mild, moist, showery, spring-like weather, which continued long enough to develop the flower buds, and then hasten the growth of the next set of embryo buds, to a point where they were ready for blooming on the return of good growing weather.

J. McNair Wright.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

Handbook of Experiment Station Work. A Popular Digest of the Publications of the Agricultural Experiment Stations in the United States. Bulletin No. 15. Washington, D. C., Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture. 1893, 411 p.

As mentioned in its title, this bulletin is a popular digest of the work of the experiment stations of the United States. That such a publication is a useful one and serves a very useful purpose is manifest when it is known that there are fifty-four different stations in the country, some maintained entirely by the general Government, some by the several States. These stations had during the year 1892 no less than $997,244 at their disposal, and of this sum $689,542 was from the national treasury. That the stations have done some good work cannot be denied; but that there has been a large amount of duplication without sufficient justification, and a large amount of useless expenditure also, cannot be denied. The Secretary of Agriculture in his last annual report very properly protests against the charging against the Department of Agriculture the sum of over $700,000 annually when the Department has nothing whatever to say in regard to its disbursment. "No detailed account," he says, "as to how the money has been expended, to whom, or for what it has been paid out, is required. Current rumor in some of the States and Territories, so universal, pronounced, accentuated, and vehement as to have secured great credence, indicates that some of the moneys appropriated for experiment stations have been diverted from legitimate public purposes and turned to those of a personal and not patriotic character." He rightly thinks that if the Department is to be charged with the sum it should have the supervision of its expenditure. There are about 500 persons employed in the different stations, and during 1892 alone there were published fifty-five annual reports and 250 bulletins. With such a mass of literature as this to cope with the necessity of some digest is at once evident.

The first regularly organized station was at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., in 1875; but as a result of the law passed by Congress in 1887, giving $15,000 annually to every station organized, *now* every State and Territory except Montana and Alaska have stations, some States have two, and several have three sub-stations.

The volume under review was originally designed as a part of the exhibit of the World's Fair at Chicago, but it has only recently been issued. The various subjects are arranged alphabetically, and while not pretending to be a manual or encyclopedia of agriculture it will at the same time serve as a ready means of ascertaining what has been done upon many subjects of importance in agriculture. Under each heading there is given a brief notice of the subject and at the end refer-