these structures on his species *A. binucleata* in Germany. But the host form in this country, according to Leidy's observations and my own, is *A. proteus*. As Mr. Woodward suggests, this fact of itself creates a presumption of the fungoid nature of the filaments.

b. The occurrence of the form at a limited season of the year is in keeping with the plant nature of the filaments. While one of the specimens of Mr. Archer appears to be an exception, all the others were found, I infer, in the early part of the year, from January to May. My own were taken in February or March of three successive years. The same locality was searched for them at other seasons in vain, though uninfested *Amœbœ* were found.

c. The hyphæ take no part in the movements of *Amœba*. If they bend or diverge, such movements are entirely passive, being due to contractions of the protoplasm to which their bases are attached. This is the explanation of what Archer interpreted as the creature's power of bending and quickly again erecting the filament at the point of constriction.* All observers agree that they are non-retractile. Cf. Fig. 7, *a* and *b*.

d. The progressive development of a single tuft is sufficient of itself to establish the main point of the thesis. It is clearly indicated in Figs. 8, 9 and 10, which are three of a series of five drawings representing as many stages of development of the same cluster. The fourth and fifth are not shown. Mr. Woodward tells me that after the first week the cluster of filaments became too complicated in its branching to draw, "although they always retained their original character of springing from a basal U-shaped filament and not branching near the distal extremities." Furthermore, Mr. Woodward observed on the same slide with this large specimen a number of small ones which "only after a week were found to possess any filaments."

* *Quar. Journ. Micr. Soc.:* 6, 190.

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An interesting inquiry remains to be made into the life history and relationships of the fungus itself, but upon that inquiry I cannot enter now.

Wm. L. Poteat.

Wake Forest College, N. C.

NEW NAMES FOR SPERMOPHILUS BREVICAUDUS, CANIS PALLIDUS AND SOREX CAUDATUS MERRIAM.

Three names given by me to new species of mammals prove to be preoccupied and are here replaced.

Spermophilus chrysodeirus brevicaudus Merriam (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. VIII., 134, December 28, 1893), from the San Bernardino Mountains in California, is preoccupied by *Spermophilus brevicauda* Brandt (Bull. Acad. St. Petersburg, 1844, II., 369) from the southern Altai. I propose in its stead *Spermophilus* (*Callospermophilus*) *bernardinus*.

Canis pallidus Merriam (Proc. Biol. Soc., Wash., XI., 24, March 15, 1897), from the plains of Nebraska, is preoccupied by *Canis pallidus* Rüppell (Atlas zu Reise in Nördl. Afrika I., 33, taf. 11, 1826) from Kordofan. I propose in its stead *Canis nebracensis*.

Sorex saussurei caudatus Merriam (N. Am. Fauna, No. 10, p. 84, Dec. 31, 1895), from Reyes, Oaxaca, Mexico, is preoccupied by *Sorex caudatus* Hodgson (Horsefield's Catal. Mammals Mus. East India Co., p. 135, 1851), from Sikkim and Darjeling, India. I propose to replace it by *Sorex saussurei mutabilis*.

C. Hart Merriam.

A NEW NAME FOR MICROTUS INSULARIS BAILEY.

In a preliminary paper describing several new Voles (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XII., 86, April 30, 1898) I gave the name *Microtus insularis* to a species from Great Gull Island, N. Y. This name proves to be pre-

occupied by *Lemmus insularis* Nillson (= *Microtus agrestis* L.), described in the Œfversigt K. Vetensk, Akad. Förhandlingar, Stockholm, I., 33–35, 1844. I therefore propose the name *nesophilus* in place of *insularis* for the Great Gull Island *Microtus*.

VERNON BAILEY.

CHANGE OF NAME FOR SCIURUS ALBIPES QUERCINUS NELSON.

THE name *Sciurus quercinus* which I used for a Mexican squirrel recently described as *S. albipes quercinus* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., June 3, 1898, XII., pp. 150–151), proves to be preoccupied by Erxleben (Syst. Reg. Anim. 1777, p. 432). I therefore propose for the Mexican subspecies the name *hernandezi*.

E. W. NELSON.

NOVEMBER 19, 1898.

PROFESSOR JAMES INGRAHAM PECK.

BY the death of James Ingraham Peck, Williams College loses an able and beloved professor; the Marine Biological Laboratory, an executive officer of rare ability; American Biology, an investigator of keen perception; and a host of young biological workers, a willing helper and an inspiring friend.

Dr. Peck was born at Seneca Castle, Oneida county, New York, August 10, 1863, and entered Williams College from Canandaigua Academy when twenty years of age. After the completion of his college course he remained for one year as a graduate student, and took a second year of graduate work at Johns Hopkins University. In 1892 he was appointed assistant in biology at Williams College, and in 1894 he was promoted to the position of assistant professor, which office he held until the time of his death, November 4, 1898. He leaves a wife, a woman universally beloved, and a little boy.

Although Dr. Peck was a thorough teacher and a man of unusual popularity both with students and officers, it was not through his academic work at Williamstown, but rather through his scientific and executive work at Woods Holl, that he was best known.

In 1888 Dr. Peck prepared one of the first serious contributions to the study of Variation that had been made since the time of Darwin. The summer of 1889 he spent at Woods Holl, where he worked upon the habits of the young of certain food fishes. In 1890 he published his Cymbuliopsis paper. In 1892 he was again a member of the scientific staff of the Fish Commission Laboratory, where he worked upon the Pteropods and Heteropods collected by the Albatross. The summer of 1893 was spent in preparing his paper on the 'Food of the Menhaden,' and in 1894 he continued his plankton studies and prepared a paper on the 'Sources of Marine Food.' In 1895 he was placed in charge of the Laboratory of the Fish Commission, and in 1896 he accepted the position of Assistant Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory.

For the three years that Dr. Peck was in charge of the general affairs of the Marine Biological Laboratory he worked with untiring energy, and inspired all who visited the Laboratory with a spirit of devotion to science and of loyalty to the institution. During the past summer he worked with unabated energy, denied himself the many opportunities for rest and recuperation that his students and friends besought him to take, and returned to Williamstown entirely unfitted to withstand the strain of severe illness. He literally sacrificed himself for science.

H. C. BUMPUS.

BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

THE leading article in the last number of the *Chemical News*, is a long criticism of the recent, supposed discovery of a new gas,