It seems to me probable that a method of hygrometry is here suggested which is worth a trial and for which suitable apparatus could be easily devised. In other words, artificially nucleated air is suddenly cooled by expansion until a fog just appears. The dew point is computed from the pressure decrement thus determined. If t be the temperature of the air in degrees centigrade and p its pressure, and if the air is cooled from 20° and 76 cm., we write approximately,

$$dt/(t+273)=.29\ dp/p,$$

so that roughly 1 cm. of pressure decrement will correspond to a little more than one degree of temperature decrement in a dew point apparatus and more than 10 or 15 cm. of pressure difference will rarely be required.

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SCLEROTINIA FRUCTIGENA.

Among the many fungi connected with plant diseases, *Monilia fructigena* is one of the most notable. Its life history has been a subject of study by many in this country and in Europe. Woronin has made perhaps the most complete study, and although the ascospore stage was not found, he did not hesitate to place the species of the genus *Sclerotinia*. The apothecia have not been observed, to my knowledge, by any one who has had the subject under investigation, although they have been sought for by many.

This spring, during April and May, I found this stage in considerable abundance in many peach and plum orchards in Maryland. In fact, some specimens were noticed in every orchard examined where brown rot had appeared during the year 1900. The apothecia appear with the flowers of the peach, and arise from the sclerotia in the 'mummy' fruits covered by slightly moist soil, especially where they have not been disturbed for a year. They are from 3 to 12 mm. in diameter and the stipe is long enough to bring the disk just above the ground. The apothecia dry up in a few weeks and are then very difficult to find, although with a careful search they can probably now be discovered in northern peach and plum orchards. A few of the ascospores retain their power of germination up to the present time.

By means of numerous cultures followed out very carefully on agar, bouillon, on sterile dried apple and prune and also on green peaches and plums, I have produced the conidial stage (*Monilia*) from the ascospores. The peach petals are also easily infected with the 'blossom blight' by placing the ascospores in contact with them. It may be that the blighting of peach and plum flowers comes largely from the ascospores.

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QUOTATIONS.

THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association was created to be the legislative assembly of the medical profession of the United States. Its first meeting at Saratoga brought out prominently the possibilities for effective work that are inherent in its method of organization. That the work of this body at its first meeting was not perfect need hardly be said, as no new machine ever made its trial trip without developing some friction. However, it can truthfully be said that the House of Delegates at Saratoga so performed its duties as to encourage its friends and as to quiet its critics. One criticism somewhat frequently passed upon it was that its work was not deliberative. Matters were referred to various committees whose report was adopted or rejected with but scant discussion. The reason for this is not far to seek. The men composing the House of Delegates were the same men who for years have been endeavoring to get the old general session to legislate intelligently upon various topics that demanded elucidation at the hands of the representative gathering of American physicians. Their experience with that method had taught every one of them that prolonged discussion meant always defeat or postponement. This lesson could not be readily unlearned, and so they were moved by a somewhat feverish haste to have important matters passed upon before they were killed by tiresome discussion. Be-