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.

C. Barus.

Brown University,
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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-

cause of the large membership of the House it is clear that much of its work must be done through committees, just as the work of Congress and of our State legislatures is accomplished. Yet we must have ample provision for free debate upon important topics before they are finally passed upon. We are gratified to learn that the new Business Committee which will arrange a program for the next meeting of the House already has under consideration a plan to bring out full discussion in such a way as to ensure no interference with the decisiveness of final action. With this provided for the House of Delegates will be fully entitled to the respect, confidence and suport of all American physicians.—*American Medicine.*

THE House of Delegates.—This new legislative body of the American Medical Association gave ample evidence that it can dispatch work much more efficiently than was possible in the general session heretofore. It contained many representative men, who showed a willingness to devote themselves to its business at no little sacrifice to themselves. It had to struggle against some disadvantages, due to the newness of the work and to the fact that an untimely fire at Saratoga drove it from its original quarters. The urbanity of President Wyeth and his rather low articulation were, perhaps, not conducive to a quick dispatch of business, but after the first day the progress made was more expeditious. This first experience has proved several things. The sessions should, if possible, be held at times when the sections for scientific work are not in session. Many men were kept from reading papers because they were conscientiously attending the House of Delegates. Others remained away from the House, because the sections were more interesting. If this is allowed to continue, the House will soon be attended by few others than the political wire-pullers who have at times dominated the affairs of the Association to its disadvantage. The House would do better to meet early in the morning or in the evening during the time devoted to entertainments than during the time assigned for section work. It is probable that one of the vice-presidents or chairmen elected by itself should be selected to occupy the chair in most cases, so that the President might be free for social and scientific duties. The President of the Association is usually elected for scientific services rendered to the profession and the public, and is not necessarily a good parliamentarian. The House of Delegates should be empowered to select a man with a strong voice, a strong backbone and a knowledge of parliamentary law, combined with absolute impartiality to preside over its deliberations. This would insure sessions beginning at the exact minute agreed upon and would dispatch business in a quick, just and efficient way. On the whole the House of Delegates was, and promises to continue to be, a success.—*Philadelphia Medical Journal.*

THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND.

ON June 9, 1902, the twenty-seventh meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund was held at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Messrs. Bowditch, Pickering and Minot were present.

The following officers were elected:

President, Henry P. Bowditch; *Treasurer,* Charles S. Rackemann; *Secretary,* Charles S. Minot.

The report of the Treasurer, ending May 23, 1902, was read and accepted. It shows a balance of income on hand of $2,586.01.

It was voted to consider as closed the records of the following Grants:

33. Julien Fraipont.
81. John Milne.
82. W. O. Atwater.
86. H. H. Field.
87. S. H. Scudder.
88. P. Bachmetjew.
89. E. S. Faust.
92. E. W. Scripture.
95. F. T. Lewis.

The Secretary reported that Grant No. 95, of $125, had been made to Dr. F. T. Lewis, Cambridge, Mass., for investigation of the development of the vena cava inferior, being agreed to by correspondence, and that the work had been completed and published.