

reports which I have received do not state whether any correlated change occurred in the foliage, stems or other feature of the plant's habit. It is, therefore, plain that one cannot satisfactorily discuss the nature of those cases of atavic mutation until more complete data are obtained. Still, one seems to be justified in assuming that the exciting cause of atavic mutation in those two cases is largely connected with climatic conditions, although the determinate cause of mutation, both phylogenetic and atavic, is apparently often independent of such conditions. It may be added that I have not yet been able to suggest an exciting cause for the cases of aggregate phylogenetic mutation which I have referred to; but the facts of that mutation are absolutely as I have stated them in the publications mentioned in the foregoing footnote.

CHARLES A. WHITE.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

December 30, 1902.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON.

APPOINTMENT OF RESEARCH ASSISTANTS.

It is the purpose of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, among other plans, to encourage exceptional talent by appointing a certain number of research assistants.

These positions will not be those commonly known as fellowships or scholarships; nor is the object of this provision to contribute to the payment of mechanical helpers or of assistants in the work of the institution. It is rather to discover and develop, under competent scrutiny and under favorable conditions, such persons as have unusual ability. It is not intended to provide means by which a student may complete his courses of study, nor to give assistance in the preparation of dissertations for academic degrees. Work of a more advanced and special character is expected of all who receive appointment.

The annual emolument will vary according to circumstances. As a rule, it will not exceed \$1,000 per annum. No limitations are prescribed as to age, sex, nationality, graduation or residence. Appointments will at first be made for one year, but may be continued.

It is desirable that a person thus appointed

should work under the supervision of an investigator who is known to the authorities of the Carnegie Institution to be engaged in an important field of scientific research, and in a place where there is easy access to libraries and apparatus—but there may be exceptions to this.

Applications for appointments may be presented by the head of, or by a professor in, an institution of learning, or by the candidate. They should be accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the candidate, of the research work he has done, and of that which he desires to follow, and of the time for which an allowance is desired. If he has already printed or written anything of interest, a copy of this should be enclosed with the application.

Communications upon this subject should be distinctly marked on the outside envelope, and on the inside, Research Assistant, and should be addressed to the Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1439 K Street, Washington, D. C.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

THE Carnegie Institution of Washington has made a grant to the Marine Biological Laboratory and now has at its disposal twenty tables in the Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., for the season of 1903. These tables are intended for the use of persons engaged in original research in biology, and carry with them the right to be furnished with the ordinary supplies and material of the Laboratory. Applications for the use of one of these tables should be addressed to the Secretary of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C., stating the period for which the use of the table is desired, and the general character of the work which the applicant proposes to do.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Society of Naturalists at its Washington meeting during convocation week elected as president Professor William Trelease, of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dr. Franz Boas, of New York, was elected vice-president and Professor Bashford Dean, treasurer. Dr. G. Ross Harrison was reelected secretary. Professor William T. Sedgwick,