

disease is common the ash never grows to be a very large or very old tree. It is said that in Forest Park, St. Louis, nearly all of the white ash trees are diseased. Susceptibility to the disease, mode of entrance of the parasite, the microscopic changes of the wood, and remedies, are discussed in this bulletin. Five excellent plates serve to make the matter plainer than is possible by text alone.

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THE BRAIN OF SILJESTRÖM.

THE brain of Professor Per Adam Siljeström, of Stockholm, has recently been described by Retzius.* Siljeström was an eminent physicist and pedagogue who died in 1892 at the age of seventy-six. He was connected with the Paul Gaimard Polar Explorations, and is best known for his valuable researches on Mariotte's law, and for his efforts in behalf of the reformation of the school systems in Europe. Most of his work in this line was done subsequent to his visit to the United States in 1849-50, where he studied the various school systems and published his views. His intellectual abilities are spoken of as having been of the highest order.

Retzius adds his description of this brain to those of the astronomer Hugo Gylden and the mathematician Mme. Sonya Kovalewski. Siljeström's brain weighed 1,422 grams and is splendidly developed. Its convolutions are particularly rich in the frontal and parietal association areas, and it appears in most respects more complex than do those of Gylden and Kovalewski. The brain shows that special order of normal asymmetry so typical of the higher brains. As in Gylden's and Kovalewski's brain, the right Sylvian fissure proper is shorter (47 mm.) than the left (58 mm.), and the marginal gyre shows a similar complexity; these features are of interest in their possible relation to the mathematical abilities of these persons.

A small abscess of the size of a hazelnut involved the right subfrontal gyre.

E. A. S.

* *Biologische Untersuchungen*, Neue Folge, X., 1902 (Stockholm).

THE NEW ALGOL VARIABLE.

THE Algol variable, 4.1903, recently discovered by Mme. Ceraski, proves to be an object of unusual interest. The Carnegie grant has enabled an examination of the photographs, taken with the Draper telescopes, to be made. This has shown that the star has a period of 1.3574 days = 1^d 8^h 34^m.7, and a range of 2.4 magnitudes. About half an hour before minimum, the rate of diminution in light amounts to between two and three magnitudes an hour, and is probably greater than that of any other star yet discovered. A minimum was predicted here, and was observed photographically and photometrically, 1903, March 19^d 16^h 24^m, G. M. T.

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March 24, 1903.

SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT.

THE Civil Service Commission announces that on May 5, 1903, an examination will be held for the position of assistant physicist. The subjects and weights are:

1. Education and experience..... 50
2. Thesis (each competitor will be required to present a thesis of not less than 2,000 nor more than 2,500 words on some subject appropriate to the line of work indicated by the special subject of the examination below which he proposes to take; thesis to be prepared prior to date of examination and to be given to examiner on that date. In preparation of thesis, competitor may consult such books or publications as he desires, but the thesis must be entirely his own composition and must be accompanied by an affidavit to this effect) 20
3. Any one, and only one, of the following four subjects:
 - (a) Magnetic testing and research and the absolute measurement of electrical quantities, such as currents, resistances, capacities, inductances, etc.
 - (b) Electrical testing and photometry. This includes the testing of instruments used for the measurement of both direct and alternating currents, of the various switchboard, portable,