

These pots were buried December, 1902, on the Arlington farm of the United States Department of Agriculture, in a heavy clay soil at three different depths. Eight complete sets are covered to a depth of six or eight inches, such as would take place in deep ploughing. Twelve complete sets are buried at a depth of twenty inches, where they will be comparatively free from the action of frost. Twelve more complete sets are buried from three to three and one half feet, thus insuring fairly uniform conditions as to temperature, moisture, etc.

In all 32 complete sets or 3,584 pots have been buried. It is proposed to take up one of each of these sets from time to time and test for germination. The present plan is to make the tests at the end of one, two, three, five, seven, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, forty and fifty years. With this scheme the last set of those buried at a depth of six to eight inches will be taken up for test after the lapse of twenty years, and, indeed, it is quite probable that most of this series will have germinated or decayed long before this; in fact we feel reasonably sure that many will succumb during the first year. Similar results will undoubtedly be had from those buried at greater depths, though here vitality will be retained longer. Many, of course, will live for a number of years; on the other hand, it will be quite surprising if any respond to germination tests at the end of fifty years.

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#### SOME NEW GENERIC NAMES OF MAMMALS.

In preparing an index of the genera of mammals, a number of names have come to light which have been previously used for other groups. Some of these names are in current use and apparently have no synonyms which can be substituted for them. The following new names are therefore proposed:

*Eosaccomys*—new name for *Saccostomus* Peters, 1846, which is preoccupied by *Saccostoma* Fitzinger, 1843, a genus of reptiles.

*Eucervaria*—new name for *Cervaria* Gray,

1867, which is preoccupied by *Cervaria* Walker, 1866, a genus of Lepidoptera.

*Helicotragus*—new name for *Helicophora* Weithofer, 1889, which is preoccupied by *Helicophora* Gray, 1842, a genus of Mollusca.

*Lophocebus*—new name for *Semnocebus* Gray, 1870, which is preoccupied by *Semnocebus* Lesson, 1840; a genus of lemurs.

*Morenella*—new name for *Morenia* Ameghino, 1886, which is preoccupied by *Morenia* Gray, 1870, a genus of chelonians.

*Nannospalax*—new name for *Microspalax* Nehring, 1898, which is preoccupied by *Microspalax* Trouessart, 1885, a genus of Arachnida.

*Necronycteris*—new name for *Necromantis* Weithofer, 1887, which is preoccupied by *Necromantes* Gistel, 1848, a genus of Mollusca.

*Neocothurus*—new name for *Cothurus* Palmer, 1899, which is preoccupied by *Cothurus* Champion, 1891, a genus of Coleoptera.

*Octodontomys*—new name for *Neoctodon* Thomas, 1902, which is preoccupied by *Neoctodon* Bedel, 1892, a genus of Coleoptera.

*Tapirella*—new name for *Elasmognathus* Gill, 1865, which is preoccupied by *Elasmognathus* Fieber, 1844, a genus of Hemiptera.

*Tytthoconus*—new name for *Microconodus* Osborn, 1886, which is preoccupied by *Microconodus* Traquair, 1877, a genus of Pisces.

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#### MUSEUM NOTES.

THE *Annual Report* of the director of the Carnegie Museum shows good progress in various directions, but particularly in the line of paleontology, where valuable additions have been made in the shape of specimens of the larger dinosaurs and of Oligocene mammals. Important additions have been made to the entomological collections, which are now among the most important in the United States, and there has been obtained by purchase the only specimen of the almost extinct *Rhinoceros simus* in this country. Pending the important additions to the museum building which are to be made the director pro-