

M. College, and by Dr. B. W. Kilgore, state chemist.

Mr. White read a paper embodying a report of studies made of the sulphur class of dyes, which are to-day the most interesting class of colors with which the cotton dyer has to work. Samples were obtained from Mr. White from all the leading dye-stuff dealers. These samples were submitted to all the different tests corresponding to the tests through which the cotton must pass in actual use, and in all these tests the new class of sulphur colors showed themselves very much superior to the direct cotton colors now in use, and they promise to ultimately replace the dye-stuffs now on the market, and entirely change the method for dyeing cotton goods with direct dye-stuffs. The paper was illustrated with dyed samples which had been tested to all the different conditions.

Dr. Kilgore filled the program for a short time with a discussion of the recent work of the soil survey in this state. Though the work has not progressed far enough to draw very many conclusions, several very interesting things were noted. In analysis made of soil waters, for plant food, as was to be supposed, it was found that the more leachy sandy soils contained the largest amount of plant food in solution in the third and second foot in depth. It is interesting, however, to note that the same holds with the red clay soils in the Piedmont section of the state.

In the study of the composition of type soils of the state, which work is being carried on by the department, it has been found that lime is present in seemingly unusually small amounts. In the red-clay soils in the Piedmont section of the state, where there were considerable amounts of phosphoric acid, nitrates and potash, analysis revealed scarcely a trace of lime. This would indicate that the soils are in actual need of an application of lime, but of course for definite conclusion this would have to be tested experimentally.

J. S. CATES,
Secretary.

RALEIGH, N. C.,
May 5, 1903.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

MOUNT PELEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Should not the Martinique volcano be called either *Mont Pelé* or *La Montagne Pelée* or in plain English *Mount Pelee* (no accent)? My impression from a visit to St. Pierre and Morne Rouge in 1895 is that the common name was *La Montagne Pelée* and I understood that *pelée* was an adjective meaning *bare* like the Spanish *pelado*, also applied to bare or woodless hills. I remember that the mountain did not then seem to have any bare surface at all. Of course, if an adjective, the form to go with the masculine *mont* is *pelé* and with the feminine *montagne* is *pelée*, and the combination *Mont Pelée* is neither French nor English. I am reminded of this now by what seems a complete confirmation in Professor Heilprin's book at page 166, although he calls his work 'Mont Pelée and the Tragedy of Martinique.' Geo. Kennan's 'Tragedy of Pelée' is non-committal and his use of the name always accurate.

In Stark's 'Guide to Barbados and the Caribbee Islands,' Boston, 1893, the form *Mt. Pelee* (no accent) occurs at p. 42. This I suppose should be read *Mount Pelee* on usual English analogies. The writing of a French accent, however, seems to involve the correct French form of the word.

MARK S. W. JEFFERSON.

THE PROPOSED BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT THE TORTUGAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Professor Mayer, of the Brooklyn Museum, has asked me to give my opinion on the advisability of establishing a tropical-biological station in American waters.

I think that such a station would be an invaluable aid to biological research in all departments, and no one who is acquainted with the rich fauna of the Mediterranean and even of British seas can help regretting the way in which work is hampered by the comparative paucity of life on our northeastern coasts.

West Indian waters would, however, surpass in interest and variety of species the Mediterranean.