

which was taken from the stomach of a hog in October, 1899. This was one of several similar balls. When it came into my possession it had been somewhat compressed, so that it was somewhat cuboidal in form. Evidently, however, its form originally was pretty nearly spherical. From a preliminary study of the substance of the ball, I find that it consists entirely of vegetable fibers, and as far as the examination has gone these fibers appear to be those of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*).

Externally, the ball is grayish in color with darker brown spots over the surface. The interior is buff color, and the whole is quite hard. It resembles in a general way the hair balls which are so frequently found in the stomachs of cattle, but is considerably heavier. This preliminary notice is made in order to call the attention of botanists who are situated near packing-houses where swine are killed to the possibility of finding more of these curious formations. A careful examination will be made of the fibrous material composing the ball, and a full report then published. Photographs have been taken of the ball, and these will be reproduced when the investigation has been completed.

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

MEMORIAL OF THE LATE WALTER REED.

ON the fifteenth of August a meeting was held in Bar Harbor of friends of the late Major Reed, M.D., U.S.A., to whom in a large degree is due both the discovery of the mode by which yellow fever has been spread, and also the consequent suppression of that dire disease. Representative men were present from different parts of the country and letters were received from various members of committees already appointed to promote the collection of a memorial fund in grateful commemoration of Dr. Reed's services. Important suggestions were presented from President Eliot, Dr. W. W. Keen, Professor J. W. Mallet and others. Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, chairman of a committee appointed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, presided, and Dr. Stuart Paton

acted as secretary. Among those who took part in the conference were Dr. W. H. Welch, of Baltimore; Dr. Janeway, of New York; Dr. Abbott, of Philadelphia; Dr. Herter, of New York; Dr. Barker, of Chicago; Dr. Putnam, of Buffalo; Dr. Fremont Smith, of Bar Harbor; and Dr. Sajous, of Philadelphia; and besides these medical gentlemen, Bishop Lawrence, of Massachusetts, and Messrs. Morris K. Jesup, president of the New York Chamber of Commerce; John S. Kennedy, president of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York, and William J. Schieffelin, of New York. The following conclusions were reached: that an effort should be made to raise a memorial fund of \$25,000 or more, the income to be given to the widow and daughter of Dr. Reed, and after their decease the principal to be appropriated either to the promotion of researches in Dr. Reed's special field, or to the erection of a memorial in his honor at Washington. Arrangements were made for the publication of circulars explaining this movement, and asking cooperation not only from the medical profession, but from all liberally disposed individuals who appreciate the value of Dr. Reed's services to mankind.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Chemical Society will hold its next meeting in Convocation Week in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

DR. EMIL TIETZE, director of the Imperial Geological Institute of Austria, was chosen president of the Ninth International Geological Congress, which opened at Vienna on August 20.

DR. E. VON LEYDEN, professor of pathology at the University of Berlin, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate on August 11.

DR. R. LYDEKKER, F.R.S., has been elected a foreign member of the Accademia dei Lincei of Rome.

The Botanical Gazette states that Mr. C. G. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, has been elected a member of the German Botanical Society and of the Botanical Society of France.