

nounce 'we produce all the plays of Shakespeare,' wholly omitting to mention the names of the actors!

Within the last few days I have learned that Mr. Geo. B. King, janitor of the courthouse at Lawrence, Mass., for seventeen years, has been reduced to the position of assistant janitor. Over him has been put a political favorite. Mr. King is poorly educated, and is surrounded by persons who do not believe in scientific janitors; yet he has been able to discover many new Coccidæ in Massachusetts, and his writings on this group are known to entomologists all over the world. Thus does the *man* come to the front, though everything is against him. Yet it is not always so, and for every one having inborn talent who succeeds, no doubt many fail. Mr. King will have to give up all his work in science, if the new conditions are not altered.

It is to the credit and glory of our universities that they can help men to success; can give the conditions which make success in science possible and easy—*given the men*. But after all, the men are everything.

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#### ARCTIC NOMENCLATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The president of the Royal Geographical Society, Sir Clements R. Markham, in the *Geographical Journal* for July, 1903, Vol. XXII., page 7, note, says: "The land which is divided from Greenland by Smith Sound forms a long island, and as many as seven names have been given to various parts of it—1. North Lincoln, 2. Ellesmere Land, 3. King Oscar Land, 4. Schley Land, 5. Arthur Land, 6. Grinnell Land, 7. Grant Land. It is a geographical necessity that, for purposes of description, there should be a name for the whole island. It was first discovered by Baffin in 1616, and first named Ellesmere by Inglefield in 1853. Its name should, therefore, be Ellesmere Island." A map on page 57 of the same volume shows 'Ellesmere Island' and omits 'Grinnell Land' and 'Grant Land.'

It seems desirable to call the attention of American scientists and geographers to this

curious proposition, which, without the slightest notice to American geographers, eliminates the American names given to the most important discoveries by Americans in the Arctic, and minimizes as much as possible any recognition of the work of Kane, Hayes, Hall, Greely and Peary.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

PHILADELPHIA,

October 6, 1903.

#### GONIONEMUS VERSUS 'GONIONEMA.'

DR. MURBACH (SCIENCE, September 18, 1903, 373) has forgotten to add to his letter the following—*Moral*: when proposing a new name give its derivation. F. A. B.

#### SHORTER ARTICLES.

##### NEW HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL TERMS.

THE extension of horticultural and agricultural knowledge and the extensive literature that is appearing on such topics render it necessary that new words and expressions be coined in many places to give more exact expression to our thoughts. The writer is very much opposed to the wholesale introduction of new terms, as they seldom find use outside of an individual writer's papers. In some cases, however, it is absolutely necessary. Terms for scientific usage are ordinarily derived from Greek or Latin and are seldom fitted for the general use of the masses of the people. Words that we expect to be generally used, the writer believes, should, regardless of derivation, be short, euphonious, phonetically spelled, easily pronounced and different from any other word in ordinary use, so that it will not suggest any other meaning than the one desired. If no word fulfilling these requirements and having the proper signification can be derived from classical sources, the writer strongly favors the policy of inventing a short and convenient term with no meaning other than that given it and without reference to derivation classical or otherwise. By using this policy, short euphonious terms can be secured. Why concede to the Greeks and Latins the sole right of coining words and burden ourselves with inadequate, poorly-