

the type cheerfully lives in the aquarium, feeding on mosquito larvæ and little tadpoles. Who will find a second specimen?

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

QUOTATIONS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

THERE is grumbling all the time on account of the continually increasing demands of the Department of Agriculture. For the fiscal year 1897-98 its appropriation was \$3,182,902. For the current year the appropriation is \$5,478,160, and the department will cost \$6,229,880 next year.

Although the amount spent by the department is large, other countries are expending proportionately more each year for the same purposes. The latest obtainable figures, as given in a recent report from the senate committee on agriculture and forestry, show these to be the appropriations of several foreign countries for the encouragement of agriculture:

France	\$ 9,020,000
Austria	9,275,000
Hungary	9,400,000
Russia	25,280,000
Japan	3,750,000

In order that these figures may mean something, the committee has calculated the amount spent by each nation, including the United States, for each acre of tillable land and for each person in the agricultural population. These figures are:

EXPENDITURE PER ACRE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

	Cents.
France	9.8
Austria	13.3
Hungary	12.4
Russia (about)	4
United States	1.3

EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA OF AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.

	Cents.
France	52
Austria	69
Hungary	90
United States	35

Russia, with an area of 8,660,395 square miles, maintains 102 experiment stations, or one to every 84,906 square miles. The United States, with 3,692,125 square miles, has sixty

experiment stations, or one to every 61,535 square miles. The other extreme is reached with Belgium, where, in a country containing 11,373 square miles, fifteen experiment stations, or one to every 758 square miles of territory, are maintained. Germany and France maintain a station for every 3,000 square miles of their territory, roughly. In no section of the United States are there as many stations in proportion to the land surface as there are in Germany and France. In the states on the Atlantic seaboard there is one station to every 24,000 square miles of land. Texas, with one federal experiment station, is 27 per cent. larger than all of France and Germany, with their 151 stations. The ratio of experiment stations to area in France and Germany is 96 to 1 as compared with Texas, 28 to 1 as compared with Minnesota and the Dakotas, and 39 to 1 as compared with our Pacific states.

The quarrel that the public has with the Department of Agriculture does not hinge on the amount of its annual appropriation. There has never been any disposition to treat it in a niggardly fashion, but the impression is general that great sums of money are wasted on frivolous enterprises.

The free distribution of seeds is the most notorious of the improper expenditures of which the system is guilty, and the amount of money involved in this is about the same as the annual increase in the appropriation granted by congress. The Weather Bureau, which costs the department \$1,330,000 a year, is pretty generally laughed at now.

If the department devotes itself to its legitimate business, and accomplishes its functions properly, it will not be hampered by any lack of funds.—The N. Y. Sun.

JAMES HYATT.

DR. JAMES HYATT died at Bangall, N. Y., on February 27, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was one of the earliest members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, also a member of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, now the Academy of Sciences, and one of the founders of the Torrey Botanical Club. With him