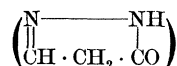


The essence of Mendelism in inheritance is its alternative character. In this it is opposed to blending inheritance (as in human skin color), which has been regarded as the typical sort of inheritance. At the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution certain new cases of non-blending inheritance have already been found. Among sheep it appears from Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's records that the offspring of two black sheep are (probably always) black, although one or more of the grandparents were white. It looks as if black color (like albinism) might be recessive. Among canary birds it is found that, of the offspring of crested and of plain headed birds, some are crested and some are not. Poultry have been studied because of the numerous characters they exhibit. When a Japanese long tailed, clean legged cock was crossed on a white bantam hen, the two surviving offspring were highly colored like the father and had abundant feathers on the legs like the mother. The crested characteristic of poultry is peculiar, being sometimes dominant, and sometimes (apparently) blending with the crested condition when the cross is made.

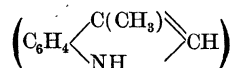
7. *On the decomposition products of epinephrin.* JOHN J. ABEL and R. DE M. TAVEAN. (Presented by WILLIAM J. GIES.)

The empirical formula, $C_{10}H_{13}NO_8 \cdot \frac{1}{2}H_2O$, adopted by Professor Abel for that member of the epinephrin series which he has called epinephrin hydrate (the adrenalin of Takamine) is, at present, the subject of an acute controversy. In this report special attention was drawn to the fact that the $\frac{1}{2} H_2O$ of the above formula has always been regarded by Abel as *water of constitution* and *not* water of crystallization, as his opponents have apparently taken for granted. The basic substance, $C_8H_4N_2O$, which is obtainable equally from both forms of epinephrin, has been decomposed, by treatment with caustic potash, into ammonia (NH_3), methylamin ($CH_3 \cdot NH_2$), and methylhydrazin ($CH_3 \cdot NH \cdot NH_2$). The last degradation product is of great importance in throwing light on the chemical constitution of the new base, $C_8H_4N_2O$. Its appearance, under the circumstances referred to, proves that the two

nitrogen atoms of this base are directly combined one with the other, and suggests, among other things, for this base a ring structure such as is found in bodies of the pyrazolon



series. Small quantities of skatol



have been obtained on fusing epinephrin hydrate with caustic alkalies. Further investigation, particularly an analytic study of epinephrin hydrate prepared in an atmosphere of hydrogen, is in progress.

WILLIAM J. GIES,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

THE writer was recently dining with friends, none of whom is engaged in scientific work in the narrower sense of the term. The American Association came up for discussion, and one of them said that he would like to become a member, but did not know how to arrange it. I said that I should be glad to nominate him for membership, and then asked the others if they would consent to be proposed for membership. There were in all seven; four consented to join the association, one was already a member, one took the matter under consideration and one declined. They were all surprised, so far as I remember, to learn that the dues were only three dollars and that SCIENCE is sent without charge to members. I venture to communicate this experience to SCIENCE because it seems to me that the conditions would be similar in any group of intelligent people. If each member of the association would ask two of his friends to join the association, at least one of them would be likely to accept, and the membership of the association would be doubled, much to the advantage of the association and the progress of science in America.

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