

than floor supports for apparatus. Numerous other details were considered.

The subject of stability was further discussed by several of the physicists and astronomers present.

CHARLES K. WEAD,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

RECENT WASHINGTON RHIZOBIA EXPERIMENTS.*

IN 1902 Dr. Geo T. Moore published a paper in which he gave a brief outline of the history of the study of the free nitrogen-assimilating microbes of leguminous plants.† In this paper the author outlines a method for increasing the nitrogen-assimilating power of rhizobia by growing them upon artificial nitrogen-free media, which is said also greatly to increase their tubercle-forming power. According to the paper by Grosvenor, Dr. Moore has continued his experiments along the same line and has patented the process, giving the patent rights over to the government for the sole benefit of the farmer. It is stated that by the use of these nitrogen-hungry rhizobia the yield of any leguminous crop may be increased very greatly (from 40 to 400 per cent.). The results are said to be far superior to those obtainable from the use of the 'Nitragin,' patented by Nobbe and Hiltner of Germany. Instead of bottling the cultures (of nitrogen-hungry rhizobia) in a dry pulverulent state, as did Nobbe and Hiltner, Dr. Moore infiltrates absorbent cotton with the cultures and dries it, whereupon it is ready for shipment to the farmer, at a nominal cost.

If the claims of the paper can be verified by further tests, Dr. Moore deserves credit for having accomplished a work which will prove to be of great benefit to farmers. It will of course not do away with the necessity of crop rotation.

It is regrettable that Dr. Moore did not see fit to contribute the article himself and that

* Gilbert H. Grosvenor, 'Inoculating the Ground: A Remarkable Discovery in Scientific Agriculture,' *The Century Magazine*, 68: 831-839 (October), 1904.

† Geo. T. Moore, 'Bacteria and the Nitrogen Problem,' Year-book of the Department of Agriculture, pp. 333-342, 1902.

it did not appear in some scientific publication rather than a literary magazine. This is not at all intended as a criticism of Mr. Grosvenor's presentation of the work done by Dr. Moore, only the custom prevails for those who do the actual scientific work to also present it to the world first-hand, nor are we in the habit of looking for reports of research work in publications devoted almost wholly to fiction.

ALBERT SCHNEIDER.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

A NEW CODE OF NOMENCLATURE.

IN *The Condor* for January, 1905 (Vol. VII., pp. 28-30), is an abstract of a new code of nomenclature, "which will shortly appear under the joint authorship of Doctors Jordan, Evermann and Gilbert, * * * entitled 'Nomenclature in Ichthyology. A Provisional Code Based on the Code of the American Ornithologists' Union.'" It is said:

The recent preparation of numerous papers in systematic ichthyology has necessitated the reconsideration of many problems of zoological nomenclature, and as some of these are not covered by any canon in any recognized code, and again, as certain canons in the best considered of the various codes of nomenclature, that of the American Ornithologists' Union, are not available in the study of fishes, we have ventured to draw up a code for our own use in ichthyology. * * * The different canons in this code are based on those composing the code of the American Ornithologists' Union, and so far as possible the language of that admirable document has been followed. We have, however, omitted certain matters which may be considered as self-evident, and we have omitted all reference to groups of higher than family rank.

The points in which the ichthyological code differs from the ornithological are then stated; the text of these parts of the new code is given apparently in full, and relates to six of the canons of the earlier code. As the perfect code has not as yet been devised, all improvements on preceding codes should, of course, be welcomed, but changes from well-established methods of procedure should carry convincing evidence that they are improvements in order to secure adoption.

Not many months ago the American