English words is found in the final *e*, which always denotes the long sound of the preceding vowel, as in *tone, bite, hate,* etc. It is true that recent writers on botany have frequently attempted to simplify the spelling of technical terms to the detriment of phonetic principles, and so we have such forms as *mestom, plerom, hadrom,* etc., which must be admitted to our dictionaries as variants of the infinitely preferable *mestome, plerome, hadrome,* still employed by careful writers. The fact that there are two Greek words κλών and κλόνος (the latter giving us the English adjective *clonic*) merely emphasizes the importance of properly indicating the long *o* in English derivatives of κλών. I therefore suggest *clone* (plural *clones*) as the correct form of the word to be adopted in dictionaries, lexicons and general writings. It is to be hoped that the 'shackles of philology' to which Mr. Webber so feelingly refers will not prevent him from accepting this suggestion in the friendly spirit in which it is offered.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES.

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE ARAUCARINEÆ.

In my paper on the megaspore-membrane of the Gymnosperms[1] a footnote refers to the occurrence of supernumerary nuclei in the pollen-tube of *Agathis.* Recently I have found that the number of nuclei in the pollen-tube of *Araucaria* may be even greater than that observed in the former genus, being over thirty in number in one instance at least. The supernumerary nuclei are placed fore and aft of the generative group in a parietal stratum of protoplasm not unlike that of the megaspore. Again the behavior of the pollen-tube in *Araucaria* is peculiar. The pollen-grains do not fall into the micropyle but are found at the distal end of the ligule more or less entangled in its serrated edge. From this point the tubes pass in grooves on the surface of the ligule or the scale, a distance of an inch or more, to the micropyle, which they enter and after penetrating the long beak of the nucellus arrive at the archegonia. This method of pollination and growth of the pollen-tube is unique among the Gymnosperms so far as is known and its bearing on the problems of fertilization important—notably on what may for convenience be termed the 'free-growth' theory of chalazogamy.

The double nature of the integument is very apparent in young ovules of *Agathis,* as Strasburger[2] long ago observed. The micropyle in some cases at least extends almost to the base of the nucellus on its upper surface, though usually not so far on the lower, in the form of V-shaped slits.

The archegonia are peculiar in structure arrangement and development. Their study is throwing new light on the character and relationship of these organs in the subgroups of the Conifers.

The vascular supply to the ovules worked out by series of celloidin sections is found to be different from the descriptions already given of it and promises very material aid in settling the vexed question of the primitive or specialized nature of the subgroup under consideration.

These features and other chiefly anatomical ones, added to the peculiarities presented by the megaspore-membrane and the tapetum, as described in the paper to which reference has been made above, place the Araucarineæ in a very isolated position among the subgroups of the Coniferæ. The forthcoming monograph, it is hoped, will make this clear and aid materially in the establishment of the phylogenetic position of the Araucarineæ.

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THE DEATH (?) OF AN AMŒBA.

While watching some amœbæ on February 8 I observed one which was behaving in a singular manner. Instead of progressing in

[1] 'The Megaspore-Membrane of the Gymnosperms,' by R. B. Thomson. University of Toronto Studies, Biological Series, No. 4, pp. 85–146, Pls. I.–V. 1905.

[2] Strasburger, E., 'Die Angiospermen und die Gymnospermen,' p. 91, 1879.