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ARTHUR C. SPENCER,
Secretary

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I am sorry to conclude, after a perusal of the last number of SCIENCE that has reached me (October 26, 1906) that everything is not going just right everywhere just now. My grief is greatly softened, however, by the fact that the columns of that always instructive and sometimes entertaining journal seem to be pretty 'wide-open' to people who 'object.' I can hardly tell what a boon this will be to some of us whose activities are now mostly restricted to some form of mild and, I trust, inoffensive 'kicking.'

I have been waiting for some months for somebody to enter a protest against the phraseology of the published notices of the awards of pensions from the 'Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.' As the same 'peculiar wording' has been used in every such notice that I have seen, I infer that it must have been purposely selected and formally adopted by some one. 'The retirement of Professor ——— *is made possible*' (the italics are mine) by the action of the trustees of the Carnegie Fund, etc.

When I first read this phrase in the announcement of Dr. Harris's retirement from the Bureau of Education I thought it only an amusing oversight, a bit of ill-considered composition, or a case of 'the types made us say'; but when I read it later of Professor Morley and again of Professor Dolbear (I think) I saw that some other than the printer's devil was having a hand in it. For in my humble and far-away judgment the italicized words, as applied to the retirements named above, are about the most infelicitous that a diabolical ingenuity could select. To one who doesn't know the man or his work, or the big place he fills in the 'educational heart' of the great republic, the words clearly imply that the president, and everybody else, for that matter, have been wanting for years to retire Dr. Harris, but that it was impossible to get rid of him until the Carnegie fund came to the rescue. One must conclude that through the same beneficent charity Western Reserve University is now relieved of Professor Morley, the most distinguished member of its faculty; and that Tufts breathes again, free from the incubus of Dolbear. I am not holding the trustees of the Carnegie fund responsible for these words nor am I questioning their singular appropriateness in *the majority of cases with which the trustees will have to deal,* but to the inventor of the phrase, whoever he may be, I submit that there ought to be an alternative, for use when the above seems to be not just the right thing to say—something that will not mislead the intelligent but uninformed reader.

About a quarter of a century ago it was my pleasure to sit through several sessions of the physical section of the British Association, presided over by Lord Kelvin. Following the usual English practise, he always said a few words after the presentation of each paper, conveying the thanks of the section to its author. The custom is often purely formal and generally the words have little real meaning, but it was delightful to see that the distinguished chairman, following his natural leaning towards 'precision,' had devised two expressions, quite similar in form but, to a reflective listener, very different in meaning, which he made use of as judgment dictated, in the discharge of this part of his duty as presiding officer. In one case he would say, "I am sure the section will join me in thanking Mr. ——— for his most interesting and important communication on this subject," while in another it would be, "I am sure the section will join me in thanking Mr. ——— for his communication on this *most interesting and important subject.*"

Can not the editor of the Carnegie pension

announcements evolve something like this?—and then everybody will be happy.

T. C. M.

DRESDEN,
November 12, 1906

IS THERE DETERMINATE VARIATION?

PROFESSOR KELLOGG has presented some very interesting facts and arguments regarding the variation of *Diabrotica soror,* under the above title (SCIENCE, November 16, p. 621); but I venture to think that the dilemma has more horns than he has credited to it.

He shows (Fig. 7) that the Sierra Morena collection contains a very large proportion of fused-spots specimens. This material is from a locality about three miles from Stanford University campus. Now why is it not possible that a distinct Sierra Morena strain exists (perhaps the prevalent form of higher levels throughout the region), and that this has in recent years invaded the campus of Stanford University? If this is likely, or even possible, the whole matter may assume a different aspect.

If there exist different strains of *D. soror,* some free-spotted and some with a prevalence of fused spots, it is altogether likely that they differ in other characters, *e. g.,* power of resistance to particular forms of disease. If, in certain parts of the world, people with light complexions have supplanted those with dark, we are not obliged to assume that complexion is in itself a common cause of survival, or else abandon the idea of selection. We know, on the contrary, that the familiar color-characteristics accompany many others, some of which, singly or in combination, may have a high selection-value.

T. D. A. COCKERELL

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO,
BOULDER, Colo.,
November 18, 1906

SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE ADVANCING MALASPINA GLACIER[1]

THE Malaspina Glacier lies at the seaward base of Mount St. Elias in Alaska, where a number of large valley glaciers descend from the St. Elias Alps, and coalesce at the mountain base to form a great ice plateau some fifteen hundred square miles in area. The characteristics of this piedmont ice plateau, the Malaspina Glacier, have been made known to us mainly through the splendid work and descriptions of the late Professor Russell.[2]

One of the striking features of the Malaspina Glacier, as described by Russell and others, was its smooth surface due to the general absence of crevassing. So well developed was this characteristic that the glacier has served as a highway of travel for a number of expeditions having for their object the ascent of Mount St. Elias. Twice Russell himself used the Malaspina for this purpose; Prince Luigi Amedeo, Duke of the Abruzzi, made use of the same highway on his successful ascent of St. Elias; and Mr. H. G. Bryant also traveled across the glacier toward Mount St. Elias. Each of these expeditions crossed the Malaspina Glacier on the side toward Yakutat Bay where my studies have been carried on. Other expeditions have crossed the glacier further west. In these expeditions it was found possible not only to move freely over the ice, but also to draw loaded sleds across it.

A second characteristic feature of the Malaspina Glacier is the presence of a moraine-veneered margin, developed by melting of the ice and concentration of the included rock fragments at the surface. In places, this veneer of moraine soil is so thick, and the ice under it so stagnant, that forests have developed upon it.

In the summer of 1905 I looked down upon the Malaspina Glacier from several high points in Yakutat Bay; and late in August

[1] Published by permission of the director of the United States Geological Survey. I wish to acknowledge in this work the assistance of Lawrence Martin and B. S. Butler, in 1905, and of the latter, together with O. VonEngeln, J. L. Rich, and R. R. Powers, in 1906. A paper, with photographs and map illustrating the changes described below, will appear in the forthcoming number of the *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia.

[2] *Nat. Geographic Mag.,* Vol. III., 1891, pp. 53–204: Thirteenth Annual Report U. S. Geol. Survey, 1891–2, Part II., 1893, pp. 1–91.