

spores placed on sterilized peach twigs soon reproduced the *Cytospora* form. From our experiments it is quite safe to conclude that *Cytospora rubescens* Nitschke is the pycnidial form of *Valsa leucostoma* Pers. The pustules of these two forms are constantly intermingled, except on the twigs where the perithecia seldom develop. These forms resemble each other so closely in size, shape and color that it is usually impossible to distinguish one from the other without the aid of a microscope. When the epidermis of diseased tissue is peeled off, these bodies remain attached to it and appear like blisters on its inner surface.

The disease injures the Japan plum in much the same way as the peach. A full account of this disease will be published in bulletin form by this station some time during the present year.

F. M. ROLFS

MISSOURI STATE FRUIT
EXPERIMENT STATION

QUOTATIONS

THE IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

THE report of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund for the year 1906-7, presented to the general committee at their meeting under the presidency of the Prince of Wales on Monday, is calculated to impress different sections of the community in a somewhat different manner. By those who are uninstructed in scientific methods, and unacquainted with the caution necessary for the successful conduct of scientific inquiries, it is likely to be received with some impatience at the continued absence of definite results of a preventive or curative character; while those of better qualifications for the exercise of judgment will recognize that foundations are being laid which afford reasonable hope of a successful and permanent superstructure. The general summary of the superintendent, Dr. Bashford, states that, "during the past year, the hopes of advancing knowledge of cancer have become more and more centered in experimental investigations. We have learned from experiments more of the nature of the local and of the constitutional conditions associated with the origin of cancer; and we have been able to form more

definite conceptions of the nature of the change responsible for the rapid multiplication of cancer-cells." The earlier conclusions that cancer is universal in vertebrate animals, without reference to the nature of their food, that its prevalence differs greatly in extent among different races of men, that it is frequently developed in parts of the body which are subjected to continued irritation, either from industrial pursuits or in association with native customs or religious rites, that it is often consecutive to some direct local injury, and that no single form of external agency is constantly associated with its development, have all been confirmed by subsequent observation and experiment. On these grounds it is pronounced to be futile to seek for a hypothetical something common to all the external agencies associated with cancer, and to be necessary to direct attention to the common intra-cellular change which, in conformity with the biological similarity of cancer throughout the vertebrates, must intervene in the transformation of normal into cancerous tissue. As there is no evidence to justify the assumption that the disease is communicated from one person to another, the search for the clue to cancer in any species of animal must take account of peculiarities in the individuals which are attacked and in those which escape. Hence, questions of individual and of family liability have received increased attention during the year.—The *London Times*.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

LIGHT AND HEALTH

SURGEON CHAS. E. WOODRUFF, of the United States Army, in some notes on "Actinophysiology and Actinotherapy," published in *American Medicine* (Philadelphia) for April, calls attention to the injurious effects of excessive sunlight, a subject on which he has already written several articles and one book. Among the points mentioned are the retardation of vegetable growth by sunlight; the injurious effects of sunlight upon animals; the retardation of human growth by sunlight, so