

DR. MAXWELL T. MASTERS

THE July number of the *Journal of Botany* (London) contains a portrait and short account of the life of the late Dr. Maxwell T. Masters, the well-known English botanist, who died on the thirtieth of May last, at the age of seventy-four years. He wrote "Vegetable Teratology," a book that for nearly forty years has been the standard and practically the only work on the subject. He was also the editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, perhaps the foremost horticultural journal in the world.

PROGRESSUS REI BOTANICAE

ANOTHER *Heft* (3) of Dr. Lotsy's "Progressus Rei Botanicae" (pub. by Fischer, Jena) has made its appearance. It carries the first volume from page 533 to its conclusion (p. 642), and contains but one article (by R. P. van Calcar) "Die Fortschritte der Immunitäts- und Spezifizitätslehre seit 1870."

NEW EDITION OF CAMPBELL'S BOTANY

AFTER five years the Macmillans bring out a second edition of Campbell's well-known "University Text-book of Botany." So well written was the first edition that it was not necessary to make many changes in the text; in fact the new book is so little different from the old that it may be used in the same class with no inconvenience. It is practically the best general text-book to-day for the American student of advanced botany.

EXPERIMENTS ON THE INFLUENCE OF LIGHT

IN the October *Annals of Botany* Professor Peirce records certain experiments made by him to determine the kind and amount of irritability of certain young plants in relation to light. Although his experiments were interrupted before completion (by the San Francisco earthquake) he shows that as the direction of illumination is usual or unusual certain plants have their normal form, or some other wholly different. "It is evident," he says, "that unless the young plants developing from the spore are exposed to influences like those under which their parents developed, they will be unlike their parents." A broader

statement of this conclusion is that "certain physical factors of the environment, constant or periodic but unchanging, constitute means of repeating parental characters generation after generation, and these environmental influences are as essential as the substance. Given the same chemical compounds and the same arrangement of these in the fertilized egg as in the parents, the young must be like the parents *if* their environment is the same." The paper is well worth careful reading, and it is to be hoped that Professor Peirce will be able soon to resume his abruptly interrupted experiments.

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CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM

DR. HERBERT HAVILAND FIELD is visiting this country in connection with the Zoological Congress and the interests of the Concilium Bibliographicum of Zurich. Visitors to the Congress will find a set of the cards of this great zoological catalogue on exhibition in the Harvard Medical School. There is also a complete set arranged to date in the American Museum of Natural History. A duplicate set in the American Museum is available for immediate orders.

Dr. Field is seeking to organize the business affairs of the Concilium on a somewhat more permanent basis by the appointment of a director, on a salary to be fixed by American trustees, the director to administer the affairs of the Concilium without any pecuniary interest in its profits or losses, but solely with the interest of maintaining the high character of the bibliographical work which it has already accomplished. For this purpose and for the general expenses of the Concilium an annual sum of \$5,000 is needed either from an endowment fund of \$100,000 or from a special annual subscription fund.

It seems appropriate that a special effort should be made by American zoologists to raise such a fund in order to further the interests of the Concilium, which reflects such great credit upon this country as well as upon the Swiss government, which has so cordially

supported it. For the immediate purposes of the Concilium it is necessary to raise a special fund to cover the purchase of new type-setting machines and other apparatus which will greatly facilitate all operations. During the present summer Dr. Field may be reached by letters addressed in care of the American Museum of Natural History. A special American committee will be formed during the meeting of the International Zoological Congress to take this matter in charge.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION'S GRANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

AT the recent Leicester meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, grants for research were made to the amount of nearly £1,300. The characters of the grants and the approximate amount in pounds is as follows:

Section A—Mathematical and Physical Science. Seismological observations, £40; further tabulation of Gessel functions, £15; kites committee, £25; geodetic arc in Africa, £200; meteorological observations on Ben Nevis, £25.

Section B—Chemistry. Wave-length tables of spectra, £10; study of hydro-aromatic substances, £30; dynamic isomerism, £40; transformation of aromatic nitramines, £30.

Section C—Geology. Fossiliferous drift deposits, £11; fauna and flora of British Trias, £10; crystalline rocks of Anglesey, £3; faunal succession in the carboniferous limestone in British Isles, £10; erratic blocks, £18; pre-devonian rocks, £10; exact significance of local terms, £10; paleozoic rocks, £15; composition of Charnwood rocks, £10.

Section D—Zoology. Index animalium, £75; table at the Zoological Station at Naples, £100; heredity experiments, £10; fauna of Lakes of Central Tasmania, £40.

Section E—Geography. Rainfall and lake and river discharge, £5; investigations in the Indian Ocean, £50; exploration in Spitsbergen, £30.

Section F—Economic Science and Statistics. Gold coinage in circulation in the United Kingdom, £6.

Section G—Engineering. Electrical standards, £50.

Section H—Anthropology. Glastonbury Lake Village, £30; excavations on Roman sites in Britain, £15; anthropometric investigations, £13; age of stone circles, £53; anthropological photographs, £3; anthropological notes and queries, £40.

Section I—Physiology. Metabolism of individual tissues, £40; the ductless glands, £30; effect of climate upon health and disease, £35; body metabolism in cancer, £30; electrical phenomena and metabolism of arum spadices, £10.

Section K—Botany. Structure of fossil plants, £15; marsh vegetation, £15; succession of plant remains, £45.

Section L—Educational Science. Studies suitable for elementary schools, £10.

Corresponding Societies Committee. For preparation of report, £25.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the Meudon Experiment Station, which is affiliated with the Collège de France, M. Daniel Berthelot has been appointed director of the laboratory for plant physics, and M. Muntz, director of the laboratory for plant chemistry.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD has been placed in charge of the department of investigation of the International Rubber Company, Jersey City, N. J. His headquarters are at present with the Central Mexican Division, and he should be addressed at the Hacienda de Cedros, Mazapil, Zacatecas, Mexico.

DR. L. W. STEPHENSON has been appointed assistant geologist on the U. S. Geological Survey, and will be engaged for the next two years in the investigation of the geology and water resources of Virginia and the Carolinas.

FRANK M. SURFACE, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania), has been appointed associate biologist at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station at Orono, Maine.

DR. DAVID T. DAY, who for twenty-one years has had charge of the preparation of the U. S. Geological Survey's annual report on the min-