examination of these pages shows one who has known something of the pore fungi that he will have many new names to learn, since the old genera, as *Polyporus, Daedalea, Lenzites, Trametes,* etc., have been split up into new ones.

If there are any plants about whose nomenclature there has been no doubt, the common alfalfa of the fields is one of them. We all felt that we were on solid ground when we wrote its name *Medicago sativa* of Linné, but now comes C. S. Scofield, of the United States Department of Agriculture, who offers strong reasons for abandoning this name. It appears that Tournefort in 1700 figured "luserne" quite correctly under the name of *Medica,* and also a very different plant on the same plate under the name of *Medicago.* Linne made use of Tournefort's plate and descriptions, at first (in the "Systema Naturae," 1735) accepting his names, but later (in the "Species Plantarum," 1753) applying the name *Medicago* to both plants in the plate. It appears from this that *Medicago* must be retained for the second plant on the plate (*M. radiata*), and that the proper name of the alfalfa ("luserne") is *Medica sativa* (L.) Mill.

G. H. Powell, of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, has published (in Bulletin 123) the results of his studies of the decay of oranges while in transit from California. He finds that it is principally due to a blue mold (*Penicillium digitatum*), although a part of it is caused by *P. glaucum.* He finds, further, that the fungus is incapable of penetrating unless the skin has been injured in some manner. Cooling the fruit before shipment and the maintenance of a cool temperature in transit tend to reduce the amount of decay. The report is illustrated by nine full-page plates, two of which are colored.

Experiments by Dr. G. G. Hedgcock extending through five years seem (Bulletin 131, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture) to prove that the disease of the roots of the almond, apricot, blackberry, cherry, peach, plum, prune and raspberry known as "crown gall" is essentially identical, and due to the same organism. Furthermore, it has been found possible to produce ("with great difficulty") a crown gall on the apple, chestnut, walnut and rose by transfer of the organisms from the galls on the first named plants. The author says, further, "these results show quite conclusively that apple crown gall in its soft form is contagious, but that in the hard form it is either slightly or not at all contagious."

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HARVARD ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Harvard Anthropological Society celebrates its tenth anniversary in May of this year. The club was founded in 1898 mainly through the initiative of the late Dr. Frank Russell and Mr. Walter S. Andrews. Its object "is the promotion of interest in the study of the natural history of man and of the history of human culture with special reference to its origins and primitive forms and to the general laws of its development."

The society is composed of undergraduates and graduates of Harvard University who are taking or have taken courses offered by the department of anthropology. The officers, with the exception of the permanent secretary, are elected from the student body. Meetings open only to members of the club are held every month during the college year, at which time papers are presented and discussed. The society thus furnishes a means of intercourse between the older and younger men which is not possible in any other way.

During the first seven years of the history of the organization two or more public lectures were given under the auspices of the society each year. A different policy has been carried out during the last three years. Two dinners have been held annually with a special guest of honor who has delivered an address. These occasions have proved most profitable as well as enjoyable as many former members of the club have returned.

The society numbers among its honorary members Professor F. W. Putnam, Miss Alice Fletcher, Mr. C. P. Bowditch, Professor Franz

Boas and Professor A. C. Haddon. Among the speakers at the meetings of the club have been, in addition to the honorary members, Professor A. M. Lythgoe, Professor George F. Moore, Professor Leo Wiener, Professor A. L. Kroeber, Professor Marshall H. Saville, Mr. Stewart Culin, Professor E. H. Nichols, Dr. J. M. Bell, Professor John Murdock, Professor G. H. Chase and Mr. E. B. Drew.

Alfred M. Tozzer

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

On the death of W. S. Yeates, the late state geologist of Georgia, Professor S. W. McCallie, for a number of years the senior assistant geologist of the survey, was appointed state geologist. S. P. Jones, some years back assistant state geologist, who has recently been doing special work in petrography at the University of Wisconsin and at the Sheffield Scientific School, at Yale University, has been appointed assistant state geologist. The staff of the survey now consists of S. W. McCallie, state geologist; Otto Veatch, assistant state geologist; S. P. Jones, assistant state geologist, and Edgar Everhart, chemist.

The British home secretary has appointed R. A. S. Redmayne, M.Sc., professor of mining in Birmingham University, to the newly-created post of chief inspector of mines.

Dr. Fridjof Nansen has retired as Norwegian Ambassador to Great Britain.

The fiftieth anniversary of Dr. S. E. Chaillé as teacher in the medical department of Tulane University will be celebrated by the alumni on May 19. It is the intention to establish a memorial fund for the endowment of a chair of physiology or hygiene to be named after Dr. Chaillé.

Professor A. Lawrence Rotch, founder and director of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Meteorological Society of London.

At the annual general meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, held on April 23, 24 and 25, new members were elected as follows: Martin Grove Brumbaugh, Philadelphia, superintendent of public schools; Walter Bradford Cannon, Boston, Mass., professor of physiology in Harvard University; James Christy, Philadelphia, consulting engineer; William Hallock, New York City, professor of physics in Columbia University; Edward Washburn Hopkins, New Haven, Conn., professor of Sanskrit and comparative philology at Yale University. Leonard Pearson, Philadelphia, dean of the faculty of veterinary medicine in the University of Pennsylvania; Josiah Royce, Cambridge, Mass., professor of the history of philosophy in Harvard University; Jacob G. Schurman, Ithaca, N. Y., president of Cornell University; Charles Henry Smyth, Princeton, N. J., professor of geology at Princeton University; Herbert Weir Smyth, Cambridge, Mass., Eliot professor of Greek literature in Harvard University; Henry Wilson Spangler, Philadelphia, professor of mechanical engineering in the University of Pennsylvania; Edward Anthony Spitzka, professor of general anatomy at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; John Robert Eitlington Sterrett, Ithaca, N. Y., professor of Greek language and literature, Cornell University; Richard Hawley Tucker, Mount Hamilton, Cal., astronomer in the Lick Observatory; Robert Williams Wood, Baltimore, professor of experimental physics in Johns Hopkins University. As foreign members were elected: Ernest Nys, Brussels, judge of the Court of Appeals and professor of law in the University of Brussels; Albert F. K. Penck, Berlin, professor of geography in the University of Berlin.

A solution of the difficulty caused by the interference of summer teaching with professional investigation is suggested by the instructors in the department of geology and geography at Harvard, who announce in the pamphlet lately issued by the Harvard Summer School of Arts and Sciences that they will receive properly qualified students in connection with the various studies that they propose to undertake themselves. Field work in historical and structural geology in Mon-