

*R. penicillata* should exist there is an item of peculiar interest. The fact that the first specimens of it collected in that region were described as a new species, *R. fimbriata*,<sup>3</sup> serves as a natural continuation of the confusion regarding the species in America, and it may be properly remarked here that there has also been some confusion in Europe regarding its identity. To reiterate, then, the name *R. penicillata* was introduced into American literature and first made to apply to forms afterwards found to be distinctly American, it was next decided that it belonged exclusively to a European species not occurring in North America, and that view is probably the prevailing one at present.<sup>4</sup> Now, when we make out that we have the species to which the name in its proper usage belongs, we find that it has already been described under an independent name.

Discovery that this peculiar *ræstelial* form existed in this country immediately raised the question as to why the telial phase should also not occur. Turning to the work of European investigators<sup>5</sup> who had conducted culture experiments, it was soon made out that the *Gymnosporangium* stage was also very characteristic and unlike any of our well-known American species. An examination of several large herbaria had not revealed any such specimens, and since it was known to have such a peculiar form it seemed evident that it had never been collected in this country. The fact, however, that the *ræstelial* form existed here seemed convincing evidence that the telia should also occur. Several collectors in the proper regions were then interested in the

matter, the form was described to them and they were asked to be on the lookout for it in the field. The results were most gratifying, for two collections were made during the season of 1907, one in Colorado and another in Alberta, Canada.<sup>6</sup> These specimens agree well with the foreign ones in general appearance as well as in size and shape of the spores and other microscopic details. Their host is the dwarf juniper, *Juniperus siberica*.

Having concluded that *Ræstelia penicillata* existed in this country and with it, a *Gymnosporangium* identical with the form culturally connected with it in Europe, it becomes a point of interest to inquire the name of the *Gymnosporangium*. European writers usually refer to it as *Gymnosporangium tremelloides* of R. Hartig. Hartig established his name in 1882 after he had made cultures. *Ræstelia penicillata* has been known since 1791 and many authors have referred to it, therefore it did not seem probable that its telial phase, conspicuous as it is, should have remained uncollected until 1882. A study was then begun which ended in the decision that the original *Tremella juniperina* of Linnaeus's "Species Plantarum" was none other than the telial phase of *Ræstelia penicillata*. The specific name *juniperina* becomes, therefore, the name of the species, and if we refer it to *Gymnosporangium* the combination is *Gymnosporangium juniperinum* (L.) Mart., Fl. Crypt. Erlang. 333. 1817.

FRANK D. KERN

PURDUE UNIVERSITY,  
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

#### RESEARCH DEFENSE SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

A SOCIETY has been formed, with the name of the Research Defense Society, to make

<sup>6</sup> The Colorado specimen was collected at Laveta, June 20, 1907, by Miss Allen, of Professor F. E. Clement's party of summer students, and communicated by Professor E. Bethel, of the East Side High School, Denver, Colo. The Alberta collection was made at Laggan, July 20, 1907, by Professor E. W. D. Holway.

<sup>1</sup> Lord Cromer has accepted the presidency of the Research Defense Society, to the organization of which we recently called attention, and has addressed this letter to the editor of the London Times.

<sup>3</sup> Arthur, "New Species of Uredineæ," I., *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club*, 28: 666. 1901.

<sup>4</sup> Farl. Bibl. Index, 1: 77. 1905. "Under *Æcidium piratum* are given the references to the *Æcidium* of *Gymnosporangium macropus*, but, as the names *Æcidium piratum* and *Æcidium penicillatum*, the latter being in fact the name of a European species not found in North America, have been confused by some American writers, some of the following references may belong to other species."

<sup>5</sup> R. Hartig, *Lehr. Baumkr.*, 1: 133. 1882; Ed. Fischer, *Hedw.*, 34: 1-6. 1895; Tubeuf & Smith, "Diseases of Plants," 389. 1897.

known the facts as to experiments on animals in this country; the immense importance to the welfare of mankind of such experiments; and the great saving of human life and health directly attributable to them.

The great advance that has been made during the last quarter of a century in our knowledge of the functions of the body, and of the causes of diseases, would have been impossible without a combination of experiment and observation.

The use of antiseptics, and the modern treatment of wounds, is the direct outcome of the experiments of Pasteur and Lister. Pasteur's discovery of the microbial cause of puerperal fever has in itself enormously reduced the deaths of women in child-birth.

The nature of tuberculosis is now known, and its incidence has materially diminished.

We owe the invention of diphtheria antitoxin entirely to experiments on animals.

The causes of plague, cholera, typhoid, Mediterranean fever and sleeping sickness have been discovered solely by the experimental method.

Not only have a large number of drugs been placed at our disposal, but accurate knowledge has replaced the empirical use of many of those previously known.

The evidence before the Royal Commission has shown that these experiments are conducted with proper care; the small amount of pain or discomfort inflicted is insignificant compared with the great gain to knowledge and the direct advantage to humanity.

While acknowledging in general the utility of the experimental method, efforts have been made by a section of the public to throw discredit on all experiments involving the use of animals. The Research Defense Society will therefore endeavor to make it clear that medical and other scientific men who employ these methods are not less humane than the rest of their countrymen, who daily, though perhaps unconsciously, profit by them.

The society proposes to give information to all inquiries, to publish *précis*, articles and leaflets, to make arrangements for lectures, to send speakers, if required, to debates, and to

assist all who desire to examine the arguments on behalf of experiments on animals. It hopes to establish branches in our chief cities, and thus to be in touch with all parts of the kingdom; and to be at the service of municipal bodies, hospitals and other public institutions.

The society was formed on January 27 of the present year, and already numbers more than 800 members. It is not an association of men of science or of medical men alone; its membership has been drawn from all departments of public life, and includes representatives of every class of educated Englishmen and Englishwomen, including many who have taken an active part in the prevention of cruelty to animals. This fact is in itself a remarkable protest against the attacks which have been made on the researches that the society has been formed to defend.

The annual subscription is 5s. to cover working expenses, but larger subscriptions or donations will be gladly received. The acting hon. treasurer, *pro tem.*, is Mr. J. Luard Pattisson, C.B. (of the Lister Institute); and an account in the society's name has been opened with Messrs. Coutts and Co., 440 Strand. The hon. secretary is Mr. Stephen Paget, 70 Harley Street, W., to whom all communications should be addressed.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY<sup>1</sup>

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY,

June 3d, 1908.

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY.

*Gentlemen:* I hereby decline to tender you my resignation as Dean and Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the L. C. Smith College of Applied Science, and ask you to

<sup>1</sup>This letter from Dean Kent to the board of trustees of Syracuse University is printed for the information of scientific men. It need scarcely be said that SCIENCE is ready to print a statement in justification of the administration of Syracuse University from the chancellor or from any responsible source.—ED.