tween physiologists and their students, the writer wishes to suggest that this dispute can best be settled by a competent committee of physiologists.

If there are enough persons really interested in the matter, such a committee can easily be appointed, say, by the American Association of Physiologists. The writer for his part would be quite willing to place his case in their hands and abide by their judgment.

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November 10, 1908

AN ECONOMICAL INSECT BOX

THE price of cork-lined insect boxes has always seemed to me to be unnecessarily high. As listed in the dealers' catalogues these glass-covered boxes cost from one to three dollars each, according to the size and finish.

It may be of interest to some of the readers of SCIENCE to know that a very satisfactory box may be obtained at about one third of the above price.

While corresponding, recently, with the Jesse Jones Paper Box Co., of Philadelphia, in regard to cardboard museum trays, I asked if they could furnish me with insect cases. The box that they finally made at my suggestion is extremely neat, and will, I believe, prove quite as durable as the wooden boxes that are now sold by the regular dealers in entomological supplies.

The boxes could, of course, be made of any size, but the ones I have are of the larger size, $14 \times 22 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. They are made of heavy "stock board," which is a very stiff pasteboard about one eighth of an inch in thickness. They are covered outside with black book-cloth, which has a very attractive appearance and does not scratch as does a polished wooden surface. The lid is hinged, and is of glass; it fits closely over a three-fourth inch shoulder. The inside of the box is lined with white glazed paper.

Instead of the expensive sheet cork, the bottom of the box is lined with corrugated paper, such as is used for wrapping glassware. This corrugated paper receives the pins almost as well as does cork, and costs nothing. It may either be put into the box before the glazed paper lining is introduced, probably the better way, or it may be covered with the glazed paper and fastened in with pins or glue, so that it may be removed and recovered when it becomes filled with pin holes. Being covered with white paper, this corrugated paper bottom looks as well as any other.

The only defect of the box is that the lid is not pest-proof. This defect may easily be remedied, when the box is filled, by sealing the lid with a strip of black passe-partout cloth, which will just match the book-cloth covering; the box will thus be made absolutely pest-proof, and there will be no danger of open cracks such as sometimes appear in wooden boxes on drying.

If it be necessary to keep the box unsealed, a moth-ball in each corner will keep out the few pests that might work their way under the lid.

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LIGHTS ATTRACTING INSECTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I should like to inquire through the columns of SCIENCE whether any of your readers have had an opportunity of observing the relative efficiency of mercury vapor lights, flaming arc lights using sodium carbons, and ordinary arc lights in attracting insects, especially moths. My experience has led me to believe that an ordinary arc light is a very much stronger attraction to moths than an incandescent light with a carbon filament, even allowing for differences in candle power. It therefore occurred to me that it might be the rays in the blue end of the spectrum which attracted them most. Inside a room moths will always leave a sixteen-candle power incandescent light or a series of them to go to the window as soon as there is any daylight. In the evening they will go to the windows at the approach of twilight and will not leave them for incandescent lights in the room until it is

quite dark outside, although it may have seemed much lighter inside than out for some time. Here again the difference may be due to the blue rays which are most conspicuous at twilight. If this hypothesis were correct it would seem natural that the mercury vapor light would be most, the ordinary arc less, and the sodium carbon of the flaming arc least attractive to the moths.

In July when a swarm of brown-tail moths swept over Boston the vicinity would have been a good time to observe the effects of the various kinds of lights. Any information which the readers of Science could furnish would be gratefully received.

Owen Bryant

Cohasset, Mass.

QUOTATIONS

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Just now, in academic circles, there is a strong disposition to question the necessity and the usefulness of the president in American colleges and universities. It is claimed that this official as now existing is an anomaly in academic development. He is a monarch in what should be a democracy. While our universities are growing at an amazing rate, in wealth, in influence, and in population, the position of the individual professor in the university is not improving. In dignity and in freedom his condition compares very unfavorably with that of his colleagues in Germany or England. It is claimed that one prime cause of this evil condition is found in the exaggerated importance attached to the university president, who holds a monopoly of public attention on the one hand and of academic power on the other. If all authority of the president, and most of that of our boards of trustees were relegated to the university faculty, it is claimed that these evils would disappear.

In this statement there is considerable truth. The university president is an anomaly. He represents a temporary stage in the development of the democracy of science, of the republic of letters. The university as such requires no leader. Its executive should be its servant, and as time goes on scientific eminence will more and more outbalance administrative skill. The university president of the next century, should the title continue, will stand in relations to the university faculty very different from those which now obtain. All this we may admit, but in the institutions of higher education, as they now exist in America, the practical need of a continuous and firm-handed executive can not be questioned. In my judgment the president ought not to stand alone in this responsibility; no appointment in the faculty and no single act of importance, as related to academic work, should be accomplished without the consent and approval of the academic faculty. The president should represent his colleagues in all forward movements. But the initiative should rest somewhere, and as things now are it should rest with the college president. I use the term "college president" advisedly, not "university president." A university actually organized needs no central controlling authority, but a college takes its individuality, its color and its movement from some master spirit. To call our colleges universities does not make them such. To draw the line between "college" and "university," terms which with us still mean the same thing, is now the most important matter in our higher education.

The formation of boards of control, made partly of professors, partly of alumni, and in part of outside business men and men of leisure, as known in England and Australia, is in every way less satisfactory than is the American adjustment at its best. Such boards seldom handle investments to the best advantage, while they are likely to occupy themselves to the more interesting labor of meddling with the individual affairs of the college faculty.

In a university, as finally organized, the professors are equal. Their position in science and in education is assured. They are chosen by their fellows on the strength of well-established reputations. It is not necessary to introduce on short notice a dozen new instructors to meet an incoming class of unusual size.