

least,¹ a larger category than the species. It is true that we have high precedent for naming genera after persons, as witness the genus *Linnæa*, named for the great master himself by one of his contemporaries. And we have become so accustomed to *Fuchsia* and *Wistaria* that we scarcely ever give thought to their derivation. But what shall we say of *Montagua*, *Grantia*, *Perkinsia*, *Fitzroya*, *Kellia*, *Mitchillina*, *Smithia*, *Jonesia*, etc.? These were all, no doubt, estimable gentlemen who did their share of the world's work; but are their names commanding enough (to say nothing of euphony!) to deserve perpetuation in scientific literature? And if we should take into consideration the question of euphony, what would become of such genera as *Billingsella*, *Girardinichthys*, *Pilsbryoconcha* and *Tarletonbeania*,² or of *Kohlera* and *Dyaria*?³ Any systematist could add indefinitely to this list.

Loyalty to one's friends is a commendable trait, even in a man of science; and a sense of humor is possibly the only thing that saves most of us from suicide or insanity. But there is a time and place for all things. One assumes a grave responsibility in inflicting upon future generations⁴ such philological abortions as those to which I have been alluding.

FRANCIS B. SUMNER

WOODS HOLE, MASS.,
March 31, 1909

A MENDELIAN VIEW OF SEX-HEREDITY; A CORRECTION

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: My attention has been called to the fact that in a recent article on sex-heredity published in SCIENCE, March 5, 1909, I carelessly wrote *lugens* for

¹This qualification is inserted in view of the growing custom of creating a separate genus to contain each species.

²This should have been *Tarleton-H-Beania*. Dr. Bean is plainly entitled to damages.

³This last I have on hearsay, but it is far from incredible.

⁴This is confessedly a bit of rhetorical exaggeration. A taxonomic name does not generally endure over five years, if, indeed, it is fortunate enough to be overlooked for so long a period.

lacticolor, on pages 399 and 400, when referring to the pale variety of *Abraxas grossulariata*.

W. E. CASTLE

March 31, 1909

BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN MEN OF SCIENCE

THE undersigned will print as soon as the compilation can be made, a second edition of the *Biographical Directory of American Men of Science*. The work is intended to be a contribution to the organization of science in America, and the editor will greatly appreciate the assistance of scientific men in making its contents accurate and complete. Those whose biographies appear in the first edition are requested to forward such alterations and additions as may be necessary or desirable, and to obtain biographical sketches from those who should be included. All those engaged in scientific work whose biographies are not included in the first edition are requested to send the information needed, using for this purpose the blank that is given on an advertising page (vii) of the current issue of SCIENCE.

It is intended that each entry shall contain information as follows:

1. The full name with title and mail address, the part of the name ordinarily omitted in correspondence being in parentheses.
2. The department of investigation given in italics.
3. The place and date of birth.
4. Education and degrees, including honorary degrees.
5. Positions with dates, the present position being given in italics.
6. Temporary and minor positions; scientific awards and honors.
7. Membership in scientific and learned societies with offices held.
8. Chief subjects of research, those accomplished being separated by a dash from those in progress.

All those in North America should be included in the book who have made contributions to the natural and exact sciences. The standards are expected to be about the same as those of fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science or