

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

membership in the national scientific societies which require research work as a qualification.

The compilation of the new edition will of necessity involve much labor, but this will be materially lightened if men of science will reply promptly to this request.

J. McKEEN CATTELL

GARRISON-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Biota of the San Bernardino Mountains.

By JOSEPH GRINNELL. University of California, Publications in Zoology, Vol. V., No. 1. Pp. 170, plates 24. December 31, 1908.

As a contribution to the zoology and botany of southern California, Mr. Grinnell has given us a paper based on three summers' field work in the San Bernardino Mountains. Its principal sections are: "Life Zones of the Region," with lists of characteristic species of plants of each zone; "Descriptions of Localities," with special reference to their zonal positions; "General Considerations relating to Bird Population; a List of the Important Plants," largely trees and shrubs, with notes on their distribution; "A List of 139 Species of Birds," with detailed notes on distribution, breeding, food and other habits; "A List of 35 Species of Mammals," with notes on distribution, abundance and habits; and "A List of 20 Reptiles," lizards, horned toads and snakes, with notes on range and habits.

It is a great satisfaction to find a fellow worker in the field of geographic distribution who, instead of discovering at once new laws and naming new distribution areas, accepts and follows with conscientious care the general principles of distribution governing the transcontinental life zones and their subdivisions, as worked out by the U. S. Biological Survey. Even the color scheme of the biological survey zone map is followed, with one exception, which is possibly accidental or the fault of the lithographer. This exception consists in using red, which is usually applied to Tropical zone, for Lower Sonoran, which

should have been orange. The colors of the higher zones, yellow for Upper Sonoran, blue for Transition, and green for Boreal, are standards so long in use as to have become familiar to many. Uniformity in such details is helpful to all who use zone maps.

In reviewing a work of such general excellence, and with so few faults, it seems ungracious to attack the first word in the title, but to many of us, either of the long familiar expressions *fauna and flora*, or *plants and animals*, or for brevity just *life*, would have sounded as well and meant as much as *biota*. However, as this term has been used before, the author escapes the graver criticism of introducing an unnecessary Greek substitute for a good English expression.

The use of the name tamarack, or tamarack pine, for the lodge pole or Murray pine (*Pinus murrayana*), while often used locally where there are no tamaracks, grates on the nerves of those brought up among the real tamaracks (*Larix*), as well as those to whom the name lodge-pole pine recalls camps on the borders of beautiful mountain meadows or the sharp cones of slender tepee poles in the camps of Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Blackfeet, Crow and Sioux. It may not be possible to correct local misuse of names, but why extend it?

An evident error in the zone map consists in extending Transition zone to the upper limit of *Pinus jeffreyi* instead of confining it to the limits of *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pinus lambertiana*, *Libocedrus decurrens*, *Quercus californica* and the accompanying set of plants and animals. As a result the zone is extended in places at least five hundred feet too high, and the Canadian zone above is correspondingly narrowed. This has apparently resulted from a failure to clearly discriminate between *Pinus ponderosa* and *jeffreyi* and therefore to crediting them with the same range (p. 31). *Pinus jeffreyi* in the San Bernardino, San Jacinto and Sierra Nevada Mountains ranges generally 500 to 1,000 feet higher than *ponderosa*, and by just this much overlaps the lower edge of Canadian