other question of science properly so called. And equally of course nomenclature can never be definitely settled. But its puerile and yet forbidding aspect can be vastly altered for the better.

Is there any real practical difficulty in the way of doing all I have suggested and doing it at once? Emphatically *no*! Men more trained to cooperation than scientific men—business men, administrators, lawyers, politicians—would have done it long ago.

Francis N. Balch

Jamaica Plain,
May 21, 1909

PERSONAL NAMES AND NOMENCLATURE

The use of personal names in nomenclature which has been somewhat criticized by various correspondents is perhaps defensible under certain circumstances. While its objections in many instances have been pointed out yet the absurdity of the practise becomes strikingly apparent when one notes such a paper as that on Paleozoic Ostracods in a recent volume of the Proceedings of the National Museum. In all, sixteen generic names are used in the article; nine of these are old and seven new. Among the old names, five are certainly personal in origin, four may not be, although two of these probably are. Among the seven new names, absolutely every one is personal. Either this indicates an extraordinary number of distinguished men in this field or an unfortunate lack of mental energy on the part of the authors.

X

SIR WILLIAM GAIRDNER'S PAPERS

To the Editor of Science: In response to the wishes of Lady Gairdner and her family, I have undertaken to edit the medical and scientific papers and articles of the late Sir William Tennant Gairdner, and to preface the collection with a biography.

In order to render the work as worthy as possible of the memory of the late professor, I am desirous of enlisting the sympathy and help of his friends. I venture therefore to request through your columns that any one who has in his possession any letters or other literary remains of Sir William Gairdner will be so kind as to communicate with me.

G. A. Gibson

3 Drumsheugh Gardens,
Edinburgh,
May 12, 1909

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Book of Wheat. By Peter Tracy Dondlinger, Ph.D., formerly Professor of Mathematics in Fairmount College. With 60 illustrations. Pp. xi + 369. New York, Orange Judd Company; London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Limited. 1908.

When we think of the great importance of the cereal wheat in the food economy of nations it is surprising that there has not been more written on the subject. The book now before us is something that might well have been looked for years ago. The author has furnished portions of his manuscript at different times to the writer of this review, and the latter has, therefore, known something of what was to be expected in the book itself.

Naturally a writer is likely to give more prominence, in discussing a subject, to those features with which he has come most often in daily contact, and so in this instance there is proportionately not as much space given to the discussion of wheat as a plant as to the milling operations, the commercial and economical position, etc. The work is particularly lacking in its presentation of wheat classification, discussion of varieties and other matters of botanical and agronomic interest. On the other hand, there is a very full discussion of the machinery for harvesting and threshing, crop rotations, fertilizers, marketing, milling, prices, movement and consumption. A commendable feature, also, is the addition of a very complete bibliography, though it must be said that the proofreading of this bibliography was very faulty.

Considerable attention is also properly given to the topic of diseases and insect enemies.

In making use of the map (page 9) showing wheat distribution, which was formerly published by the U. S. Department of Agricul-