length of time during which it has been in operation.

I have delayed submitting this note in the expectation that others would be as ready to convey information regarding air in water as they have been concerning water in air!

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September 18, 1911

THE INFLUENCE OF HEREDITY AND OF ENVIRONMENT IN DETERMINING THE COAT COLORS IN MICE

PROFESSOR T. H. MORGAN,[1] in an interesting paper, has lately published the results of his breeding experiments with mice. Among other questions he considers certain curious coat patterns on black animals resulting from a black × chocolate (brown) cross.

Such coat patterns, which appear to consist of well-defined regions of light and dark hair, he considers due to heterozygosis between the black and brown coat colors.

That such patterns are not due to heterozygosis of black and brown is, I believe, shown by the following three facts which I have been able to record:

1. That in mice, brown (chocolate) animals may possess these coat patterns while changing coats. These animals are by experiment proved to be free of all black pigment.

2. That in rabbits, black animals may show these coat patterns with extraordinary clearness. There is no brown (chocolate) rabbit recorded.

3. That the common gray squirrel frequently shows distinct coat patterns of this nature, when changing coats. This wild species is undoubtedly homozygous for its color pattern.

Morgan further suggests that these coat patterns in mice may be due to heterozygosis of intensity and dilution of coat pigmentation. This, I think, is disproved by the fact that I have obtained clearly defined patterns on the coats of dilute pink-eyed brown (chocolate) mice. These animals are the lowest recessives in the series of colored mice. They have been found, by experiments, to lack the ability to produce black pigment, intensity of coat pigmentation and dark eyes.

It would seem then that the coat patterns recorded by Morgan as well as those mentioned above are the result of physiological conditions of the animals incidental to the coat-changing period, and that they can not be considered of any value as indicating the gametic composition of the animal on which they appear.

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[1] *Annals N. Y. Acad. of Science*, 1911, Vol. XXI., pp. 87–117.

QUOTATIONS

CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A FURTHER meeting of the vice-chancellors of the home universities who constitute the Home Committee to make arrangements for the Congress of the Universities of the Empire, which is to be held in London next year on July 2, 3, 4 and 5, was held recently at the University of London under the chairmanship of Sir William Collins, vice-chancellor of that university. The meeting was also attended by Sir Charles Lucas, head of the Dominions Department of the Colonial Office; Sir Theodore Morison, a member of the Council of India; and Dr. Heath, of the Board of Education. In November last year an invitation was extended to the fifty-one universities in the British Empire to send representatives to the congress, accompanied by an intimation that the topics to be considered would fall under the following heads, but inviting suggestions: (1) University organization; (2) universities in their relation to teachers and undergraduate students; (3) universities in their relation to post-graduate and research work; and (4) universities in their relation to schools and to agencies for higher education. At the recent meeting the suggestions received from oversea universities were considered, and Dr. R. D. Roberts, secretary to the congress, made a report upon a preliminary conference of representatives of the Canadian universities, held at Montreal