

in *xērophthalmía*, a dryness of the eyes; *xērobotikós*, living on dry land; *xērophagía*, the eating of dry food, etc.

The root of the word *aléxein*, "to ward or keep off, to turn away or aside," and *aléxēsis*, "resistance or warding off," is found in such combinations as *alexanemía*, "shelter from the wind," or where Sophocles in the *Œdipus*, uses the adjective *alexímeros*, "warding off fate or death" (μόρος). Hipparchus uses *alexiphármakos*, in the sense of "warding off poison," or "acting as an antidote."

So the examples might be multiplied. It is strange that the Greeks did not themselves coin a word for "drouth-resistance," for they had and have an abundance of drouth to resist in Hellas, as any one who has ever been there in the summer-time can abundantly testify. It would be interesting to investigate modern Greek terminology on this point.

A euphonious compound of the two above roots can only be made by putting the root for drouth first; although the Greek tendency in the formation of compounds involving *aléxein*, in the sense of "warding off," "defending," seems to put the latter first, as in *Aléxandros* (Alexander)—defender of men (anér, man)—in the examples given above, and many others. To follow this practise and coin such a word as *alexixerótēsis* might be possible for a Greek, but not for us.

Let us accordingly turn the roots around. We then find that we have available for the first member of the compound, two possible nouns, viz., *aléxēsis* (ἀλέξεις)—"a keeping off" or "resistance," and *aléxis* (ἀλέξις) "help"—both from the same root as the verb *alexéo* or *aléxō* (ἀλεξέω, ἀλέξω), infinitive *aléxein* (ἀλέξειν)—a verb which has both the primary signification of to "ward off" or "resist" and the derived one of "to help." Here we encounter a difficulty. If we follow a natural analogy and say *xeraléxis*, following "prophylaxis" from the Greek *phulaxis* (φύλαξις), a "watching" or "guarding," then we seem to imply a derivation from the word *aléxis*, "help," rather than from *aléxēsis*, "warding off." But on the other hand, "*xeraléxēsis*" is slightly longer than

"drouth-resistance." There remains, of course, the possibility of following another valid Greek analogy, and saying *xeraléxia*.

On the whole, however, *xeraléxis* is preferable on the score of brevity and ease of pronunciation. Perhaps we are justified in calling it a "contract form" of "*xeraléxesis*," if that will satisfy the philologists.

We then have for "drouth-resistance," *xeraléxis* and for "drouth-resistant," *xerallectic*. In the writer's estimation these words might well replace in botanical language generally, not only our English compound, but the awkward French *résistance à la sécheresse*, or the German *Austrocknungs-resistenz*. At all events the new word is logical—as logical as "ecological" in fact.

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CRYPTOBRANCHUS ALLEGHANIENSIS, LARUS ATRICILLA AND LARUS MARINUS IN NORTH DAKOTA

In a recent article,¹ Pope has recorded the hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleghaniensis*) and the laughing gull (*Larus atricilla*) as abundant, and the black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*) as occasional at Devils Lake, North Dakota. These records, if verified, would be of much interest, extending the range of the hellbender to the northwest of that hitherto recognized and bringing the laughing and black-backed gulls from the Atlantic coast far into the interior. In three summers spent in this region, however, I have been unable to verify Pope's records and seriously question their accuracy, both for this reason and because of their inherent improbability.

Franklin's gull (*Larus franklini*) a bird which might readily be mistaken by an inexperienced observer for the laughing gull (*L. atricilla*) is a common breeder in this locality, after the breeding season gathering in large flocks upon the lake. Pope has probably mistaken the ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*) for the black-backed (*L. marinus*). I

¹ Pope, Thomas E. B., "Devils Lake, North Dakota. A Study of Physical and Biological Conditions with a View to the Acclimatization of Fish," Bureau of Fisheries Document, No. 634.

have not taken specimens of the former and hence can not speak positively of its occurrence. It has been recorded, however, by competent field observers,² and since its recognized breeding range includes North Dakota, while that of the latter is the northern Atlantic coast, its occurrence here is far more probable than that of the latter.

The only common salamander in the lake is *Amblystoma tigrinum*, which occurs in considerable numbers. I have seen no specimens of *Cryptobranchus* from the lake, and unless Pope's record is supported by specimens, it must be regarded with grave suspicion.

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THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

THE meeting of the American Microscopical Society at Washington was purely a business session. The following officers were elected: *President*, Professor F. D. Heald, University of Texas; *First Vice-president*, Professor F. Creighton Wellman, Tulane University Medical School; *Second Vice-president*, Mr. Edward Pennock, Philadelphia, Pa.; *Custodian*, Mr. Magnus Pfau, Meadville, Pa. Professors A. M. Reese, University of West Virginia; F. C. Waite, Western Reserve Medical School, and W. F. Mercer, of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, were chosen elective members of the executive committee. Professor T. W. Galloway, Millikin University, and Dr. Brayton H. Ransom, of Washington, were elected to represent the American Microscopical Society in the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The business of prime importance was the determination of the future use of the Spencer-Tolles Fund for the encouragement of research, which now amounts to about \$3,500. The fund has been allowed to accumulate for a number of years without any productive use. It was agreed (1) that proper steps should be taken to safeguard the fund in case of the failure of the society; (2) to use the fund to encourage research within the society; (3) to begin the productive use of the fund at once, so that its memorial character may be realized.

More than one hundred new members and sub-

² Messrs. Alf Eastgate, of Tolna, and Elmer Judd, of Cando, N. D.

scribers have attached themselves to the society during the year, and 1912 gives promise of being the most successful and prosperous in the history of the society.

In the absence of the president, Dr. A. E. Hertzler, Professor C. E. Bessey presided over the meeting of the executive committee, and Professor M. J. Elrod over the business session.

T. W. GALLOWAY,
Secretary

THE SOUTHERN SOCIETY FOR PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

THE seventh annual meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology was held at Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 27, 28 and 29, 1911, in conjunction with the American Psychological Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The meetings were held in the George Washington University Medical School, President Shepherd Ivory Franz presiding. The programs for December 27 and 28 were arranged jointly with the American Psychological Association. Following the joint meeting on Thursday afternoon came the president's address on "New Phrenology." On Thursday evening the members of both societies were entertained at a smoker held at the New Fredonia Hotel by Professors Franz and Ruediger.

The following items were passed upon at the business meeting held on Friday morning, December 29:

1. The proposed amendment to Art. II., Sec. 3, of the constitution was adopted.
2. It was resolved that the existing arrangement with the Psychological Review Publishing Company be continued as optional to the members of the Southern Society and be handled as hitherto by the secretary of the society. In the future, however, this option is available only to members residing in the southern territory, but it is no longer restricted to those who are new subscribers. Notice of the above arrangement is to be printed after the constitution on the membership list.
3. The secretary was authorized to drop the names of members after one year of delinquency.
4. The determination of the time and place of the next meeting was left in the hands of the council.
5. The treasurer's report was audited by the council and showed a balance on hand, December 23, 1911, of \$65.64.