

thing to give some old-school aristocrat a job of foisting some mighty poor science and poorer agriculture upon farmers, then they will deserve to go down with those they fail to minister unto.

If our American land-grant colleges and experiment stations shall faithfully and fearlessly disregard old, artificial precedents, and organize themselves around agricultural units, it will be they who preserve the intellectuality of our great body of farmer citizenship. Will they do it? is the question to-day in the mind of the "uncritical farmer." This same farmer has time and again since the battle of Lexington shown his willingness to bear the burden of any real and sincere educational need.

And now, if any pure scientist delights not in agriculture, and in the problems of the farm, he should draw his salary from some more congenial source. It is the function of pure science to increase the sum of human knowledge. Let her worshipers be about their high calling.

It is the function of the experiment stations, to apply themselves to the solution of the problems of agriculture. Such work this hour demands not only the finest skill and cleverness, but the most searching integrity. Such is real worship of the "great Goddess Truth."

The very insincere practise of trying to deceive their constituency, which Dr. Pearl seems to cite, as the only recourse for doing scientific work in experiment stations, is that which could result in the prostitution of all science, and which might result in the degeneration of American agriculture.

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THE TARIFF ON BOOKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As most of us probably think of the new tariff law as one that reduces duties, it may be well to call the attention of readers of SCIENCE to one or two items of increase that are of interest.

Books in foreign languages *are no longer* to be on the free list, and books over twenty

years old must *also have been bound over twenty years* to be entitled to free entry.

As most German books are bound after publication, and there is no telling when, this might be a serious impediment to easy ordering of books from second-hand catalogues.

As a revenue measure will it yield enough to pay for the delay and obstruction to the *free* circulation of knowledge involved? This is not a bit of the "New Freedom," I trust.

ALFRED C. LANE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Catalogue of the Mammals of Western Europe (Europe exclusive of Russia) in the collection of the British Museum. By GERRIT S. MILLER. London. Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum. Sold by Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, S. C.; B. Quaritsch, 11 Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W.; Dulau & Co., Ltd., 37 Soho Square, W., and at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S. W. 1912. All rights reserved. 8vo. Pp. 15 + 1019; 213 text figures.

Mr. Miller's "Catalogue of the Mammals of Western Europe" supplies a long-needed authoritative manual of the mammal fauna of Europe. It includes, however, only the land mammals, it excluding the seals and cetaceans. The Gibraltar macaque and the Indian buffalo are omitted as being artificially introduced species. Geographically it is restricted to continental Europe outside the Russian frontier and the immediately adjoining islands, but includes also Spitzbergen, Iceland and the Azores.

The preface, by Dr. Sidney F. Harmer, keeper of zoology at the British Museum, states that a work of this nature "was many years ago suggested by the late Lord Lilford, who kindly contributed an annual sum towards the collecting necessary for its realization," but "the possibility of issuing the present catalogue has mainly grown from the work which its author, Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, of the United States National Museum at Washington, has for some years been doing independently on the subject." Through the