

von Gruber finds that the descendants of one million people would after 100 years only amount to 347,000 souls.

To counteract the modern tendency to race suicide von Gruber proposes (1) Improvement of the economic condition of families with many children by proper laws. (2) Limitation of the economic advantages of childlessness. (3) Suppression of those agencies which, for pecuniary gains, spread the vice of race suicide. He takes an energetic stand against those modern "reformers" who would loosen the marriage ties. He considers the modern monogamous marriage the only basis of healthy sexual relations. Freedom in marriage would become "free love" and end in general sterility. He condemns the claim of the law committee of the Federation of German Women, who maintain that "as a free person woman is the mistress over her own body and may destroy a germ which, in its initial stage, is an inseparable part of her own body." The ideal of woman's emancipation has never been more nearly approached than in Imperial Rome, where sterility was a general phenomenon.

It is nothing but just that the state bear a part of the expenses of parents with a numerous family. Parents who have three or more normal and healthy children under 14 years should be paid a monthly contribution, and if they have raised three or more children they should receive an old age pension when they have reached the age of 60 years. Besides these economic advantages von Gruber would give a father of three or more children a plural vote at all elections proportional to the number of his children. A large portion of the sums expended in the assistance of families with many children could be procured by a tax on the incomes of bachelors and parents with few or no children. Von Gruber proposes severe laws against the "propaganda for the two-children system," as well as severe penalties on criminal abortion and on the advertisement and sale of drugs and other means for the prevention of conception.

A. ALLEMANN

#### PATENT MEDICINES IN GREAT BRITAIN

LARGELY through the efforts of the American Medical Association and through legislation by Congress some progress has been made in the United States in limiting the dangers from the sale and use of secret medicines. The conditions are now worse in Great Britain than in this country, and in 1912 the government appointed a select committee which has just issued an abstract of its report. It finds that there is a large and increasing sale of patent and proprietary remedies and appliances and of medicated wines; that this constitutes a grave and widespread public evil and that "an intolerable state of things," requires new legislation to deal with it, rather than merely the amendment of existing laws. Legislation is recommended as follows:

1. That every medicated wine and every proprietary remedy containing more alcohol than that required for pharmacological purposes, be required to state upon the label the proportion of alcohol contained in it.
2. That the advertisement and sale (except the sale by a doctor's order) of medicines purporting to cure the following diseases be prohibited: Cancer, consumption, lupus, deafness, diabetes, paralysis, fits, epilepsy, locomotor ataxy, Bright's disease, rupture (without operation or appliance).
3. That all advertisements of remedies for diseases arising from sexual intercourse or referring to sexual weakness be prohibited.
4. That all advertisements likely to suggest that a medicine is an abortifacient be prohibited.
5. That it be a breach of the law to change the composition of a remedy without informing the Department of the proposed change.
6. That fancy names for recognized drugs be subject to regulation.
7. That the period of validity of a name used as a trade mark for a drug be limited, as in the case of patents and copyrights.
8. That it be a breach of the law to give a false trade description of any remedy, and that the following be a definition of a false trade description: "A statement, design, or device regarding any article or preparation, or the drugs or ingredients or substances contained therein, or the curative or therapeutic effect thereof, which is false or misleading in any particular." And that the onus of proof that he had reasonable ground for belief in the truth of any statement by him regard-

ing a remedy, be placed upon the manufacturer or proprietor of such remedy.

9. That it be a breach of the law: (a) To enclose with one remedy printed matter recommending another remedy. (b) To invite sufferers from any ailment to correspond with the vendor of a remedy. (c) To make use of the name of a fictitious person in connection with a remedy. (But it should be within the power of the department to permit the exemption of an old-established remedy from this provision.) (d) To make use of fictitious testimonials. (e) To publish a recommendation of a secret remedy by a medical practitioner unless his or her full name, qualifications and address be given. (f) To promise to return money paid if a cure is not effected.

#### THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE Missouri Botanical Garden has made arrangements to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary on October 15 and 16. The war in Europe may interfere with the attendance of some of the foreign delegates, but it is known that all of those on the program will make every effort to come and, in case this is impossible, their papers will be sent in time to be read. The program is as follows:

##### Thursday, October 15

10:30 A.M. Automobile ride through the city for delegates and visiting scientists.

1:00 P.M. Lunch at the garden.

2:00 P.M. Graduate lecture room:

Address of welcome: Director George T. Moore.

The History and Functions of Botanical Gardens: Assistant Director Arthur W. Hill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England.

The Phylogenetic Taxonomy of the Flowering Plants: Professor Charles E. Bessey, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Development of the Norwegian Flora Since the Ice Age: Professor N. Wille, University of Christiania, Christiania, Norway.

The Vegetation of Mona Island: Director in Chief, N. L. Britton, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, N. Y.

The Scientific Significance of the Imperial Botanic Garden of Peter the Great, with Spe-

cial Reference to the Flora of Asia: Dr. Wladimir I. Lipsky, Jardin Impérial Botanique de Pierre le Grand, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Comparative Carpology of Cruciferae with Vesicular Fruits—Some General Biological and Systematic Conclusions: Director J. Briquet, Conservatoire et du Jardin Botaniques de la Ville Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Origin of Monocotyledony: Professor John M. Coulter, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

8:30–11:30 P.M. Reception. Director's Residence.

##### Friday, October 16

10:30 A.M. Special personally conducted trip through the conservatories and grounds of the garden. Opportunity will be given during the morning for those who wish to spend time in the library or herbarium.

12:30 P.M. Lunch at the Garden.

1:30 P.M. Graduate lecture room:

Recent Investigations on the Protoplasm of Plant Cells and Its Colloidal Properties: Professor Frederick Czapek, Physiologisches Institut der K. K. Deutschen Universität, Prag, Austria.

Experimental Modification of the Germ Plasm: Director D. T. Macdougall, Department of Botanical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Tucson, Arizona.

Hormone im Pflanzenreich: Director Hans Fitting, Botanisches Anstalten der Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany.

The Law of Temperature Connected with the Distribution of Marine Algæ: Professor William A. Setchell, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Ueber Formbildung und Rhythmik der Pflanzen: Director George Klebs, Botanisches Institut Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany.

Phylogeny and Relationships in the Ascomycetes: Professor George F. Atkinson, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The Organization of a Mushroom: Professor A. H. Reginald Buller, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

A Conspectus of Bacterial Diseases in Plants: Dr. Erwin F. Smith, Bureau of Plant