

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

GONIONEMUS MURBACHII MAYER

THE following note may be of interest to those who, since the discovery of *G. murbachii* in the "Eel Pond" at Woods Hole in 1894, have observed its persistence during succeeding summers at the original locality and have noted its rare occurrence elsewhere along the Sound.

According to Mayer<sup>1</sup> this medusa has been found occasionally in Woods Hole Harbor and has been reported from Noank, Connecticut and from Hadley Harbor, Muskeget (Muskeget) Island.

In the summer of 1911 while collecting zoological material at Groton, Conn., I found *G. murbachii* in abundance at Pine Island, off Avery Point, near the mouth of Poquonock River. This locality is five miles west of Noank. The little animals were common during the month of July and could usually be collected almost any time of the day by disturbing the rockweed along the sheltered side of the wharf at the west end of the island.

During a trip made in August of 1914 I failed to find the medusa at this place and was unable to locate it in the vicinity.

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## NOTE ON AMŒBA CLAVELLINÆ NOV. SP.

THIS species may be recommended to the attention of any worker desirous of investigating a parasitic Amœba which is visible *in vivo* within its host.

Its habitat is the stomach of *Clavellina lepadiformis*, where I noticed it from April to June, 1910, at Naples. The cilia of the stomach-wall keep it in constant rotation. When the host-individuals are small they are almost transparent, and the ceaselessly-whirling mass of parasites at once attracts attention.

In shape the organism is sub-spherical; pseudopodia were never observed. The average diameter varies from  $12\mu$  to  $17\mu$ . An ectoplasm may be present and sharply defined, or it may be totally absent. The nucleus is nearly spherical, with a diameter of  $4\mu$  to  $5\mu$ ; in it is

<sup>1</sup> "Medusæ of the World," 1910, p. 344

a nucleus of  $2\mu$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}\mu$  diameter, containing a vacuole or two. The nuclear membrane is thick and definite. In the clear space between membrane and nucleolus is a band or ring of tangible material, usually in the form of fine granules. No division-figures or further stages in the life-history were noticed.

The few rough notes and figures which I possess relative to this animal would be freely put at the disposal of any one inclined to take up the study of the species.

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## ALBINISM IN THE ENGLISH SPARROW

ON several occasions during the past summer the writer saw a single female English sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) whose plumage was pure white. On account of the fact that the bird was seen on the busy streets of Salt Lake City, it was impossible to take it, due to the ordinance against the discharge of firearms within the city limits. The bird was observed from a distance of a very few feet, and seemed to be normal in size; the beak, legs and feet were nearly the color of those of the ordinary house canary, and, so far as could be observed, every feather was pure white. She was always seen in company with normal members of her own species.

I have never seen any reference to albinism in the English sparrow, but, no doubt, other observers have noted it. This note is published in the hope that others who have made like observations may advise us whether or not albinism is common in the English sparrow.

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## THE TEACHING OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The communication of Professor Walter Libby on the teaching of the history of science, published in your issue of November 6, deserves more than a passing notice. The obvious importance of such teaching led one of us more than twenty-