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[1] this medusa has been found occasionally in Woods Hole Harbor and has been reported from Noank, Connecticut and from Hadley Harbor, Muskegat (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.

C. E. GORDON

AMHERST, MASS.

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 12μ to 17μ. An ectoplasm may be present and sharply defined, or it may be totally absent. The nucleus is nearly spherical, with a diameter of 4μ to 5μ; in it is a nucleus of 2μ to 2½μ 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.

JULIAN S. HUXLEY

THE RICE INSTITUTE,
HOUSTON, TEXAS,
November, 1914

[1] "Medusæ of the World," 1910, p. 344

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.

P. J. O'GARA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INVESTIGATIONS,
AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING CO.,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH,
November 23, 1914

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-

five years ago to begin regular instruction in the subject to small classes in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and both of the undersigned have now been teaching the history of science in collaboration for the last ten years or more. Like Professor Libby we have keenly felt the need of a text-book, and *faute de mieux* have now in hand the first of two volumes entitled "Outlines of the History of Science" designed expressly for the use of our own classes. Next summer we hope to have ready Volume I., dealing with the rise and progress of science and the scientific spirit to the fall of the Roman Empire. Volume II., treating of the development of science in medieval and modern times, should be ready a year later.

The course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is now an elective for all students in the third (junior) year and consists of one hour (lecture) and two hours (preparation) in the first half year, and two hours (lecture) and three hours (preparation) in the second half.

W. T. SEDGWICK,
H. W. TYLER
MASS. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
November 27, 1914

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Paul Ehrlich, Eine Darstellung seines Wissenschaftlichen Wirkens. Festschrift zum 60. Geburtstage des Forschers (14 März, 1914). Mit I Blidnis. Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1914.

Thirty-seven authors join their efforts in this book of 668 pages to present a summary of the investigations of Paul Ehrlich. The contributions of Ehrlich himself and of his immediate coworkers only are considered primarily, and according to the bibliography (up to February 1, 1914) at the end of volume, it concerns, in addition to several books and monographs by Ehrlich, no less than 612 separate scientific articles.

The book opens with an interesting biographical introduction by A. von Weinberg. In the gymnasium Ehrlich excelled in mathematics and Latin. In the university he early was recognized as of unusual ability and originality. While still a young medical student he became interested in problems presented by the selective affinity of lead for certain tissues, an interest which soon extended to the problems of protoplasmic affinity in general and thus really determined the main scope and nature of his later work.

The main part of the book is divided into five sections covering different phases of Ehrlich's investigations. The first section is devoted to work that especially concerns the histology and biology of cells and tissues. Here is included Ehrlich's early work. Among the more notable results discussed in the seven articles of the section, the introduction to which is by Professor Waldeyer, of Berlin, may be mentioned: important discoveries in bacterial staining methods, now in daily use everywhere, in the working out of which Ehrlich cooperated with Koch; the microchemical differentiation of leucocytes; the demonstration of the methylene blue reaction of living tissues; and the development of new conceptions of the structure and function of protoplasm (Ehrlich's "Das Sauerstoffbedürfniss des Organismus," 1885), which form the basis of the celebrated sidechain theory advanced in the nineties to further the understanding of reactions in immunity.

The next and the largest section deals with Ehrlich's contributions to the study of immunity. It contains fifteen articles by well-known workers in the field in question. The side-chain theory, in the course of the proving of which so much of the work now considered was carried out, is discussed by Wassermann, Of the other subjects dealt with in this section may be mentioned the technical methods employed in the investigation of immunological problems, toxins, antitoxins and other antibodies, hypersusceptibility and the working out under the guidance of the side-chain theory of a practical method of standardization of diphtheria antitoxin. From the reading of these articles one is deeply impressed with the great usefulness of Ehrlich's theory of the constitution and affinities of protoplasm in promoting fruitful investigation of the complex problems in chemical biology presented by the phenomena of immunity. The imme-