

cently Geo. D. Horton⁵ has proposed to grow both organisms on adjacent agar slants separated by a glass slide in the same test tube.

We suggest the following special tubes in which the culture surfaces may be kept separate while the air chamber is continuous or freely communicating between the sides. U tube with perforated corks and U capillary tube U and H tube. Probably the H tube will prove the most satisfactory. The communicating cross tube should be as short as possible so that the double tube may be held in the hand as conveniently as an ordinary test tube. Different media may be used on either side, either solid or liquid or a medium one side and some chemical on the other. The tubes should be plugged with rubber stoppers or sealed with paraffin or wax.

DR. A. PARKER HITCHENS,
Secretary

(To be continued)

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE 538th meeting of the society was held in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club, Saturday, March 20, 1915, called to order by President Bartsch at 8 P.M., with 45 persons present.

Under heading Brief Notes, General Wilcox called attention to a Cedar of Lebanon near Jackson's statue in Lafayette Square.

The first paper of the regular program was by T. S. Palmer, "Notes on the Importation of Foreign Birds." The speaker discussed the subject with special reference to canaries, parrots and game birds. He stated that about 500 permits for importation of birds are issued annually by the Department of Agriculture, the number of birds imported a year amounts to about half a million; as high as 17,000 birds have arrived in a single day; the number of species imported is about 1,500; canaries constitute by far the largest number brought in. Methods of breeding birds, caring for them in transit, selecting and teaching singers and talkers were explained. Dangers of importing contagious diseases as the "quail disease" and methods of quarantining were pointed out. The effect of the European war on the importation of birds was commented upon. Dr. Palmer's paper was discussed by the chair, Dr. Stiles and Mr. Goldman.

The second paper was by Ned Dearborn, "Notes on the Breeding of Minks in Captivity." Among the habits of the mink attention was called to

their profound diurnal sleep, cries emitted, polygamous nature, and cat-like character of food. The speaker stated that the period of gestation was found to be 42 days, number of young at birth 1 to 8; eyes of young remain closed for one month after birth; young may be weaned at 6 weeks; minks breed when a year old; and their fur is suitable for market at a year and a half, experiments showed that different types of diet had no effect on quality of fur. Speaker concluded that breeding of minks for commercial purposes was possible. Dr. Dearborn's paper was discussed by Messrs. Wetmore, A. B. Baker and Cooke.

The third and last paper was by M. W. Lyon, Jr., "*Endamæba gingivalis* and Pyorrhea." The speaker discussed the cause of pyorrhea or Rigg's disease, the *Endamæba gingivalis*, recently discovered by Dr. Allen J. Smith and others. He called attention to the pathologic lesions produced by the *Endamæba* and by the various bacteria associated with it; mentioned the amœbicidal action of emetin hydrochlorid administered systemically or locally; and reviewed some of the early references to the *Endamæba* before it was considered the cause of pyorrhea. The paper was illustrated by lantern slides of Gros's original drawing of the organism, and of several photomicrographs and drawings of living and stained *Endamæbas*, bacilli and spirochetes from a case of pyorrhea. Dr. Lyon's paper was discussed by Dr. Stiles and Mr. Goldman.

M. W. LYON, JR.,
Recording Secretary

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE NEW ORLEANS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE annual meeting of the academy was held on Wednesday, March 10, in Stanley Thomas Hall, Tulane University. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Dr. Gustav Mann; First Vice-president, Dr. R. B. Bean; Second Vice-president, Dr. W. O. Scroggs; Treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Northrup; Librarian, Professor H. F. Rugan; Secretary, R. S. Cocks. The paper of the evening was read by Dr. C. W. Duval on "Modern Conceptions which Tend to Explain the Occurrence of Secondary Infection in Typhoid Fever and Tuberculosis." There was considerable discussion of the paper in which Drs. Mann, Lemann, Friedrichs participated. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served and the Academy adjourned.

R. S. COCKS,
Secretary

⁵ *Jour. Inf. Dis.*, Vol. 15, No. 1, July, 1914.