

decidedly in favor of acid phosphate as compared with either bone meal or phosphate rock. In Dr. Hopkins's article omission was made of the fact that in the table referred to—Bulletin 90, p. 89, Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station—every \$1.00 invested in acid phosphate gave on the average a calculated profit of \$4.28 where the cowpea crops were turned under, and of \$5.42 where they were removed for hay. Phosphate rock, on the other hand, gave by a similar calculation a profit of only \$2.58 where the pea crops were turned under and the same amount where they were removed for hay. These results are the average of three series of experiments, one conducted for five years at the Knoxville Station, another conducted for four years at the Ford farm in Knox County and the third conducted for three years at the Weaver farm in Warren County.

C. A. MOOERS

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

SOIL SOLUTION

IN an article on "Acidity and Adsorption in Soils as Measured by the Hydrogen Electrode,"¹ Sharp and Hoagland truly say, as far as the literature is concerned, "Our present methods do not enable us to study the soil solution itself" (p. 127), but the writer hopes that the Van Suchtelen and Itano method as developed in this laboratory will forward this study. Description of this method will be published soon by this station. The soil solution thus obtained is considered as closely representing the one in the soil. The writer is using this soil solution for bacteriological studies of soils and sees no reason why it should not be used in the study of other soil conditions. This method by which sufficient solution can be obtained for the study of chemical composition, physical properties, etc., should be an aid in the study of soil fertility.

J. FRANKLIN MORGAN

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXPERIMENT
STATION,
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

¹ *Journal of Agricultural Research*, Vol. VII., No. 3, 1916, pp. 123-143.

OLIGAEROBE, HISTANAEROBE

THERE has lately come into use the word microaerophilic¹ to designate the oxygen requirements of a class of microorganisms (*Meningococcus*, *Gonococcus*, *Bacillus abortus*) that require free oxygen for their growth, but which succeed best only when the oxygen is in less amount than it is in the atmosphere.

From the etymologic standpoint, the word appears fairly satisfactory, although *μικρός* is more applicable to smallness of size than quantity. It seems unfortunate that a word based on the form of the well-established aerobe and anaerobe was not coined. In its place I would suggest the word oligaerobe, from *ὀλίγος*, meaning few, with special reference to number or quantity.

For organisms like *Treponema pallidum* that require a small piece of sterile tissue added to the medium in addition to anaerobic conditions, the word histanaerobe would appear to be a suitable designation.

M. W. LYON, JR.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

FILEABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW BOOKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: One who receives the numerous advertising circulars of book publishers is often at a loss to decide how much of this material to keep and how to file it, and the result is that when some particular information is wanted it is not always easy to get at it quickly. Having found the card system such a time and labor saver for such data as needs filing in a chemical laboratory, I have long wished that I might have a catalogue of all new books bearing on the subjects in which I am interested. It has seemed to me that the publishers in general would gain much if, instead of sending out the usual leaflets and circulars which vary in size and make-up as widely as the territory over which they are scattered, they would send out 3×5 cards giving the complete title, name of author, size of book, number of pages and of illustrations, table of contents, and a short paragraph indicating the scope of the work. If all publishers

¹ Dorland, *The American Illustrated Medical Dictionary*, p. 580, 1916. Cohen and Markle, *Jour. Amer. Med. Ass.*, Vol. 67, p. 1302, October 28, 1916.