

tussock grass, and that they devour also enormous numbers of the smaller species of seabirds (Tubinares), which nest in burrows.

I shall refer again to the rats of South Georgia in two forthcoming papers, one of which is already in type. The following references are to articles by the writer that throw light upon faunal conditions at South Georgia, and the way in which they have been affected by human agency: (1) "A Desolate Island of the Antarctic," *Amer. Mus. Journ.* XIII., 242-259, 1913. (2) "A Subantarctic Island," *Harper's Mag.* January, 1914, 165-176. (3) "Cruising in the South Atlantic," *Brooklyn Mus. Quart.* July, 1914, 83-110. (4) "A Report on the South Georgia Expedition," *Sci. Bull. Brooklyn Mus.*, II., 41-102, 1914. (5) "The Penguins of South Georgia," *Sci. Bull. Brooklyn Mus.*, II., 103-133, 1915.

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#### A PERSONAL AND FAMILY HISTORY REGISTER

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE of May 16, 1913, the writer called attention to a call made by Dr. J. Madison Taylor in an earlier issue of SCIENCE, seeking aid and co-operation in a plan to secure a body of trustworthy vital statistics, and attempted to emphasize the crying need of just such a desideratum. It is gratifying to know that the aim of Dr. Taylor is now realized, and that under the above caption he has made available a means by which such data may be intelligently compiled and made permanent. The register forms a volume, quarto in size, and well bound, with provisions and directions for recording personal and family traits, history of birth, growth, health, disease, etc., and also blanks for various supplemental data that may be considered desirable in such a history, such as photographs, clinical and dental records.

The volume closes with a timely discussion of subjects relating to human welfare, and includes such topics as The Child as a Problem to Parents, The Building of a Citizen, En-

vironment and inherited Tendencies, Personal Hygiene, Age and Age Values, Development of the Mind, all of which are presented in terms easily understood, and at the same time without sacrificing scientific accuracy.

The writer welcomes this register as a worthy contribution toward a better understanding of the importance of human statistics in relation to the imperative necessity of both human conservation and racial betterment. The author has spared no pains, and has evidently devoted long and strenuous labor in its production, and the publishers, F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, have also done well their part in giving to the book their usual excellence of artistic and mechanical values.

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#### REWARDS FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The American government has embarked in what will be the greatest war in its history and as such deserves and demands the unqualified support of its citizens and that every effort be made to secure such services at the minimum cost.

An effort, I believe, is being made to organize and direct the inventive skill of the American people so as to render victory more certain, save life and property and shorten the conflict. Abroad in many cases such services are rendered gratuitously but the donator in meritorious cases is rewarded by a suitable decoration. This in many case is prized more highly than a monetary reward.

Since the government is making an effort to secure such expert inventive assistance as practicable, would it not be possible to prevail upon the government to institute such a decoration and if not for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as the greatest organization competent to represent the consensus of expert opinion to do so.

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Konchûgaku Hanron Jôkwan (General Treatise on Entomology)*. By DR. T. MIYAKE.