published by Richards in London in 1906. Specifically the account is found in Dampier's narrative of his "First Voyage to the Bay of Campeachy" which is dated 1676. Dampier was, of all the early English ship captains and circumnavigators, by far the keenest observer. His "Voyages" fairly bristle with the most interesting and valuable natural history notes, and it seems not improbable that if they were better known they might constitute his best bid for fame. His text seems to indicate quite clearly that these "Carrion Crows" are our well-known "Turkey Buzzards," and if so it may be that this is the first and possibly the only recorded occurrence of albinos among them.

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AN OPEN LETTER

My dear Professor Jeffrey: In your delightful volume (excuse the word, but it expresses my feeling) on Woody Plants, you make a division of Archigymnospermæ and Metagymnospermæ on the basis of pollen chamber, fertilization by motile sperms, and presence of cryptogamic wood. In other places you show the close relationship of Cordaitales, Ginkgoales and Coniferales. Could you explain briefly, in this journal, for the benefit of many who will undoubtedly be interested, why you split the gymnosperms between the Ginkgoales and Coniferales rather than between the pithy stemmed Cycadean series and the woody Cordaites-Ginkgo-Conifer series?

Sincerely yours,

Henry S. Conard

Dear Professor Conard: Your open letter has been submitted to me by the editor of Science. My motive in dividing the Archigymnospermeæ from the Metagymnospermeæ on the basis of the presence of antherzoid fertilization and cryptogamic centripetal wood is largely one of expediency, since there are fortunately almost no gaps in the series of vascular plants outside the very considerable one which separates the Angiosperms from the Gymnosperms. The cryptogamic wood (or the *bois centripete*) has been an important criterion for the lower gymnosperms since the days of Renault and Brongniart. Zoidogamy, predicted by Hofmeister for the lower gymnosperms and discovered in the Cycads and Ginkgo by Hiarase Ikeno and Webber is a prominent character on the gametophytic side. The combination of these two accepted criteria makes the line of separation come above the Ginkgoales. The large pith and large leaves which you emphasize were also possessed by many Cordaitean forms. Some of these had leaf bases very fern-like in organization, as described by Dr. D. H. Scott and myself in remains from the lower Waverly of Kentucky. I would repeat that the term Archigymnospermeæ is one of convenience, and like most scientific terms falls short of covering the situation. I would quite agree with you that the Ginkgoales are fully as closely allied to the Coniferales as to the Cordaitales, yet convenience and the present state of our knowledge includes them with the ancient gymnosperms. I may add that your "Cycadean Series" appears to me to be a very natural one, and in fact is generally admitted. Hoping I have made my position clear I remain,

Yours sincerely,

E. C. Jeffrey

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Studies in the History and Method of Science. Edited by Charles Singer. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1917. xiv + 304 p. 4°, XLI plates (many colored), 33 illustr. in text.

As Sir William Osler tells us in the introduction to these essays, they are the outcome of a quiet movement on the part of a few Oxford students to stimulate a study of the history of science. Upon the generous initiative of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Singer, a bay has been set apart in the Radcliffe Camera of the Bodleian for research work in this field. The objects pursued are: first, to place at the disposal of the general student a collection that will enable him to acquire a knowledge of the development of science; secondly, to assist the special student in research: (*a*) by placing him in relationship with investigations already undertaken, (*b*)