

tal nourishment, such a repast, as offered by many of these books, is both too dry and too bulky for digestion,—nor are many cooks an insurance against “spoiling the broth.”

What is, then, a logical and reasonable scope for the agricultural teaching and the text book in agriculture for our public schools?

The simplest way out of the dilemma would be to return to the idea of “a book about agriculture” and give up the idea of “productive agriculture” for our public schools. In its place, it would be the object of the agricultural teacher to make intelligible to his pupils, in a general way, those biological, chemical and physical principles underlying our agricultural operations. Hence, agricultural botany and zoology, including a history of the practical phases of the evolution of our “animals and plants under domestication.” The practical operations and the history of their evolution should not be lost sight of, but be subordinate to what we might call the scientific aspects, yet diligently drawn upon for the elucidation of these. The subject, thus handled, would not be incomprehensible for one author, or one teacher, or to all the pupils, but be within the scope of the average human mind.

A good text book goes far towards making up for the deficiency of the teacher, and a poor text-book goes equally far in hampering the efficiency of the teacher. Not the least consideration in the value of a text book is its style. A book with a faulty style is like a poorly prepared, or badly seasoned meal, it is taken with a sense of repulsion. There are some of these text books, in which to their small merits are added the demerits of a bad style.

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FRED SILVER PUTNEY

FRED SILVER PUTNEY, professor of experimental dairy husbandry at the Pennsylvania State College, and well known among dairy professors and investigators throughout the United States, died of pneumonia at his home

in State College, Pennsylvania, on October 5, 1918.

Always interested in live stock problems, in recent years he has devoted his energies to teaching and fundamental research along the lines of animal nutrition. Dairy cattle feeding problems have been his special interest and his work along these lines is well known. He is co-author with Dr. C. W. Larson of the text-book and general reference work, “Dairy Cattle Feeding and Management,” and in conjunction with Dr. N. P. Armsby, of the bulletin, “Computation of Dairy Rations,” in addition to numerous papers on dairy management and nutrition.

Professor Putney was born in Hopkinton, N. H., on November 10, 1881. He was graduated from the Concord High School in 1901 and received the B.S. degree from the New Hampshire State College in 1905. In 1908 the Pennsylvania State College conferred upon him the degree of Master of Science, and he had completed recently the requirements for his doctorate degree at the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Putney first went to the Pennsylvania State College in 1906 where he worked with Dr. H. P. Armsby as an assistant in animal nutrition and general experimental work until 1908. That year he became assistant to Dean F. B. Mumford, of the college of agriculture, University of Missouri, at which institution he continued his studies in nutrition towards a doctorate degree. From Missouri he went to the Rhode Island State College as professor of animal husbandry and head of the department, and he remained at that institution for several years. In 1913 he returned to the Pennsylvania State College as assistant professor of dairy husbandry, and later became professor of experimental dairy husbandry.

For the past years, Professor Putney has been on leave of absence for advanced study in animal nutrition. This time he spent at the University of Wisconsin and had just completed the requirements for his doctorate degree. Professor Putney married Miss Bertha Bond of Urbana, Illinois, September

2, 1911, and they have one daughter, Ellen Ayers Putney, who was born July 6, 1917. Professor Putney was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Dairy Science Association, Alpha Zeta, Theta Chi, Acacia and the Order of Free and Accepted Masons. Just in his prime and in the fullness of his powers, the loss of Professor Putney will be keenly felt by his wide circle of friends and associates in dairy work. He had that rare combination or practical common sense combined with research ability which enabled him to keep a proper balance in all problems of a research nature. By his death, science has lost a well-trained and efficient worker.

VON ADOLF ERICH DAECKE

VON ADOLF ERICH DAECKE—born in Germany, place and date unknown—died at Richmond, L. I., New York, on October 27.

He was entomologist to the department of agriculture of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His work in the New Jersey Museum Reports of 1905-7 and 9 on Diptera was excellent—his knowledge of the Odonata was quite accurate. His name is immortalized in the family of Pipunculidæ in the specific name of the genera *Nephrocerus daeckei*. His nature was very kind, as was shown by the manner the squirrels in Capitol Park upon the sound of his voice or footsteps would spring toward and climb over him, awaiting a word and a caress—when he spoke to them they seemed to comprehend his conversation, his affection for children was wonderful and they were so pleased when he told them of the superficial observation of insects and animals they never seemed to tire of his discourses made so plain by him.

He was a devoted fellow of the Harrisburg, Pa., Natural History Society; from the membership he formed excursions along the by-roads and brooklets and over the mountains searching for the local avi- and zoo-fauna; his enthusiasm added many more to its membership. The charm of his interest in his

students endeared him to them while his attainments were equally fascinating to them.

He was a member of the Entomological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and attended its meetings with the vigor of youth, although a man in the fifties, was also a member of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and several scientific societies on the European continent.

He was a sincere friend and generous to a fault—was uncommonly fair in scientific discussion. However, he had very decided views of the superiority of the Germans; he could not read English without a curious disturbance overcoming his usual affability. H.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC¹

WITH the widespread occurrence of influenza in the vicinity of Boston, and the unmistakable signs of its beginning elsewhere, urgent calls were addressed to the United States Public Health Service to furnish medical and nursing relief to stricken communities. All available regular officers were detailed to the stricken communities, but the number available for such detail was insignificant compared to the urgent need occasioned by the epidemic. Moreover, the bureau had no nurses available for service in epidemic.

In this emergency the Surgeon General called upon the Volunteer Medical Service Corps, the Red Cross, the medical and nursing professions as a whole, and on the general public for personnel to help combat the epidemic. At the same time Congress was appealed to for a special appropriation to meet the expenditure required by the emergency. The necessary funds were promptly voted.

In response to the request for physicians available for duty in the Public Health Service, the Volunteer Medical Service Corps compiled a list of over 1,000 names classified by states. Appointments were offered by tele-

¹ Publication authorized by the U. S. Public Health Service.