

species involved, and how may the disease be eradicated?

H. P. K. AGERSBORG

HOAGLAND LABORATORY,  
LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL,  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

#### PAPERS "TO BE PUBLISHED"

It seems to the writer that one of the most annoying things in looking up the literature on a subject is to come across the statement that the particular point one is interested in has been worked out by some previous writer but publication was postponed for some reason. For example, in 1903 this statement appeared: "The embryology of the corn grain was studied and figures were made of the ovule at different stages beginning with the archesporial cell and ending with the fully developed embryo. These drawings and observations not being complete will be reserved for another paper." Two or three workers have recorded the fact that their search for a more recent paper has been in vain, and have remarked on the needlessness of sending them on a wild goose chase.

Another example, published in 1912, is even more serious than the one quoted above. It also concerns maize, and is as follows: "The writer has evidence (not yet published) upon various strains of pod varieties and their hybrids with other podless varieties to show that the pod character, in that form, never was a normal or original pod or glume in *Zea*; and it is also evident that the new branched ear, as it is, is not a reversion to a former one." Here the writer records important conclusions without giving any evidence on which to found them. Of course they carry little weight as they stand, but simply cloud the question at issue. They seem to have been put forth simply to gain priority without the effort being made to substantiate or record the facts back of the conclusions. This seems to be the case, especially when years elapse before the "evidence" is published, as in the case in point.

Undoubtedly many other similar instances could be cited, but these two are sufficient to illustrate what is meant. It is probable that

at the time the above were written the authors really expected to follow shortly with second papers, but through some unforeseen circumstances they had to postpone their publication indefinitely. From the viewpoint of the person following up, would it not be better to omit statements as to future efforts and future conclusions and save them for the papers "to be published"? It is probably true that some results worthy of note have come from following up "leads" of this nature, but scientific courtesy forbids the pursuit of such a hint until a more than reasonable time has elapsed after publication, and even then the average person does not care to work on problems where priority claims have been made upon conclusions one may reach. HORACE GUNTHERP

WASHBURN COLLEGE,  
TOPEKA, KANS.

#### QUOTATIONS

##### MASKS IN GAS WARFARE

THE masks now used are nearly all of the canister type: that is, the inhaled air is drawn in through a canister containing certain materials which will react with, or absorb, the gases before they enter the mask itself. This mask consists of a close-fitting fabric, containing usually more or less rubber in its structure, and held in place by elastic straps over the head. The exhaled breath escapes from the mask through a rubber valve which opens only from pressure from the inside. The time allowed to put on the mask, when slung by a strap from the neck, is under ten seconds. It is carried in a canvas case, and when the forces are within two miles of the front, they are required to wear the outfit in the "alert" position, ready for instant use, night and day.

An important feature which has been the occasion of much scientific study is the eye piece of the masks, to avoid dimming from the moisture accumulating within. Anti-dimming preparations have been found, and lately, as the result of many experiments, materials devised which reduce this difficulty to a minimum, under ordinary conditions of use.