recent handling of the article by others. Contact with papers, pencils, etc., handled remotely by others have not been included.

Another point that stands forth is that our hands are dangerous to others only in proportion to the frequency with which we infect them with our mouth and nose. The present experience shows seven hand-to-nose contacts and but two direct hand-to-mouth contacts. The handkerchief thus looms up as a factor of importance. Through it we may infect our hands from our nose, which is dangerous to others, and also infect our nose with our hands which is dangerous to ourselves.

Several lessons of practical value suggest themselves from the above related experience. They are:

I. That we should use handkerchiefs one side of which is conspicuously colored or marked so that we may always apply the hands to one side reserving the other side for the nose. This will protect our own nose from our hands and help to prevent the infection of our hands.

II. That we should abandon the universal practise of shaking hands, substituting some other less intimate method of salutation.

III. That we should encourage means which will lessen the opportunity for public restaurant employees to handle eating utensils.

GEORGE T. PALMER,
Captain, Sanitary Corps, U. S. A.

A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON A BACTERIAL DISEASE OF FOXTAIL

DURING the month of September and up until the middle of November, 1918, a striking disease on foxtail (*Setaria glauca* (L.) Beauv.) was noticeable around Fayetteville, Ark. The disease was rather widespread in this vicinity and it is quite probable that it is prevalent throughout the state of Arkansas at least. The disease manifests itself as dark brown spots and streaks, varying in size from small, oval or roundish spots, 1–2 mm. in diameter, to elongated streaks, 2–3 cm. in length. The attacked areas are to be found on leaves, flowering stalks and glumes. The pathogen, a white, rod-shaped bacterium was isolated and obtained in pure culture. It was inoculated on healthy leaves by using a sterile, platinum needle and smearing the organism on the leaf. Within three to four days inoculated spots showed the characteristic browning of the tissue. The organism was then reisolated and obtained in pure culture from the inoculated spots.

Both by spraying and by needle smears this organism was successfully inoculated on wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn and Sudan grass; it was reisolated and obtained in pure culture from each of the above-named hosts. Infections were also obtained on sorghum and millet but no reisolations have been obtained from these up to the time of writing.[1] Judging from the appearance of infected plants in the greenhouse all the cereals mentioned, except corn and the various grasses of the *Sorghum* group, are quite seriously attacked. The effect on oats is not unlike the halo blight recently described by Miss Elliott[2] and it is likely that the organisms under discussion is the same as Mann's[3] *Pseudomonas avenæ*. However, the identity of the organism is still in doubt and the work is being continued.

H. H. ROSEN
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

THE AMERICAN METRIC ASSOCIATION

THE following is a summary of the proceedings of the second annual meeting of the American Metric Association (156 Fifth Avenue, New York City), held in Baltimore on December 27 and in Washington on December 28.

Mr. David A. Molitor, consulting engineer, outlined his work for the C. E. Schmidt Co., of Detroit, tanners. He found that about 500 different commodities were being purchased for the use of this company and that they were received in many different units of weight and measure. It became clear that economy would be effected by entering the weight or measure of all material received in

[1] Since this article was written the organism has also been reisolated from these hosts.

[2] Elliott, C., "Bacterial Oat Blight," *Phytopath.* 8: 489, 1918.

[3] Manns, T. F., "The Blade Blight of Oats," Ohio Agri. Exp. Sta. Bul. 210, 1909.