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.

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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.

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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.

metric units. This step was taken with great success. The metric weights and measures were then used exclusively throughout the factory. The output of the factory was increased approximately 50 per cent. with the same working staff. The weighing in one department had previously been made by an expert in the old weights and measures. After the change to the metric system, this work was done by a laborer with fewer mistakes than formerly. Mr. Molitor estimated that a saving of approximately 20 per cent. could be effected in the bookkeeping and calculations of factories which introduced the metric weights and measures throughout.

Dr. C. O. Mailloux, consulting engineer, chairman of the United States Committee of the International Electro-Technical Commission, told of his practical experiences in the use of the metric system in the United States and foreign countries, describing his last interview with Sir John Wolfe Barry, who designed the London Bridge and other engineering enterprises in England. He expressed to Dr. Mailloux his firm conviction of the desirability and necessity for adopting the metric weights and measures in England and discussed the practical steps contemplated for their general use. Dr. Mailloux pointed out the fact that the electrical units throughout the world were based on metric weights and measures and that this in itself was indicative of their ultimate adoption for all purposes in America and England.

Mr. Jesse M. Smith, past president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, stated that he had been in close touch with the metric movement for fifty years. He had studied in Berlin during the winter following the Franco-Prussian War. The metric system was then used in the text-books and also for practical work throughout Germany. He had frequently used the metric system in America and other countries since then and believed it to be only a question of time when the metric system would be adopted in all parts of the world.

Professor Eugene C. Bingham, of Lafayette College, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Sections of the American Metric Association. The following resolution on this subject was adopted:

"*Resolved,* that the American Metric Association hereby requests the formation of local sections throughout the country."

United States Senator John F. Shafroth, read bill S5037, which he has introduced in congress and asked for a discussion on the subject. This bill is a step toward the general use of metric weights and measures, making exceptions where such seem to be advisable for special work. The bill was endorsed by the American Metric Association.

Secretary of Commerce, Honorable William C. Redfield was the principal speaker at the "Metric Dinner," held on the evening of the twenty-seventh. After outlining his practical experience as a manufacturer for thirty years and his travels in other countries in the interests of his export trade, he voiced the conviction that the metric weights and measures should and would be adopted for general use in the United States. The Secretary of Commerce said in part: "I believe that the metric system offers a return to simplicity, offers an effectiveness of thought, offers more to little children in our schools if you please, which we are not justified in withholding from them."

The following officers were elected for the year 1919: *President*—George F. Kunz, New York; *First Vice-President*—Wm. Jay Schiefflin, New York; *Second Vice-President*—Jesse M. Smith, New York; *Third Vice-President*—David A. Molitor, Detroit; *Treasurer*—Arthur P. Williams, New York; *Secretary*—Howard Richards, Jr., New York.

The following were among the resolutions passed:

"*Resolved,* that the American Metric Association hereby expresses its desire to cooperate more fully with those American industries and trades using and contemplating the use of metric weights and measures.

"*Resolved,* that the American Metric Association send greetings to the universities, colleges and other educational institutions and respectfully invite their cooperation in bringing in the general use of meters, liters and grams for the welfare of America."

SCIENCE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, publishing the official notices and proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

LANCASTER, PA. GARRISON, N. Y.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Entered in the post-office at Lancaster, Pa., as second class matter