

In conclusion, I suggest a simple rule for obtaining the "score" as an approximation to the "geometrical mean," namely *Revert dilutions⁷ and apply Phelps Method.⁸* The process of reversion gives the benefit of geometrically reducing the data, and by applying Phelps' Method one obtains an approximate "Geometrical Mean." This is the principle successfully applied in "scoring" oysters.

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CARDIUM CORBIS A MONÆCIOUS BIVALVE

IN the work entitled "Tertiary Fauna of Florida," *Transactions of The Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia*, Vol. 3, part 5, 1900, p. 1071, William H. Dall makes the following observation with reference to *Cardia*: "Nearly all *Cardia* have two forms, one more equilateral and globose, the other more oblique and elongated, but whether these differences can be correlated with sex is at present unknown."

If attention has been called to the fact that certain species of *Cardia* are monœcious, since Dall made the above statement, the writer of this note is not aware of it.

Variation as mentioned in the above quotation is very noticeable in the common *Cardium corbis* Martyn of the northwest coast. On preparing sections of the visceral region of individuals of this species in recent studies, their hermaphroditic character was clearly shown, masses of ova being interspersed with and sometimes completely surrounded by the spermaries.

I have not had the opportunity of examining other species of *Cardia*. They may or may not be monœcious, but it is evident, from the above observation on *Cardium corbis* Martyn, that variations in this genus must be based upon something other than sexual differences.

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⁷ Standard Methods of Water Analyses, Report Committee Am. Public Health Ass'n, 1912.

⁸ Phelps, Professor Earle B., *Am. Jour. Pub. Hyg.*, 18, 1908, p. 141.

THE PASSENGER PIGEON

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In 1902, 1904 and 1905 I rented a house at Devon, about sixteen miles west of Philadelphia, and on several occasions a single passenger pigeon visited my garden there. Doves came frequently. I was near enough to the passenger pigeon to make mistake impossible. Its color and size would easily distinguish it from the dove, as well as its method of flight and the use of its tail in rising from the ground, which is so much freer than that of the dove, while the shape of its tail would make it impossible to mistake its spread tail for that of a domestic pigeon. I was at Devon again during the summers of 1907 to 1913 inclusive and four or five times saw a single passenger pigeon. The last time was while motoring in 1913. I was running swiftly along a road not far from the woods and a bird got up by the side of the road and after rising from the ground about fifteen feet started off towards the woods. When its flight changed from semi-perpendicular to horizontal I was not twenty yards from it and could clearly see its breast and the under side of its tail and just afterwards the upper side of its tail still spread as the bird changed its course. I could see where it got up on the road and had an excellent idea of my distance, so that I could judge of its size, as well as its color and the shape of the tail.

I have always felt very skeptical about the "scientific" killing off of the last bird of a species which was so broadly distributed and most of whose haunts were so far from the abode of any one who would be likely to write for the papers. It may be what professional scientists would call scientific, but to me, as a business man, it has seemed pretty much like jumping at conclusions and trading on one's ignorance.

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QUOTATIONS

THE BRITISH BIRTH RATE

It is very difficult to bring home to people the meaning of a tendency so long as that tendency can only be expressed in figures. Yet