

letter referred, contained the same statement, indicating in addition that the 300 per cent. additional charge would become effective on and after May 1, 1921.

C. STUART GAGER

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

QUOTATIONS

CENTENARY OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

OUR Paris correspondent has told of the celebration, beginning Dec. 20, 1920, of the most important anniversary connected with French medicine—the centenary of the Academy of Medicine, which has the same pre-eminence in medicine that the general French Academy bears in relation to the more liberal arts. Its roster bears only the names of those who have by years of achievement won recognition in the profession, and there are few below middle life who have been accorded the honor of election. Trousseau, who received the academy prize in 1837 for his classical treatise on laryngeal phthisis, was considered unusually fortunate in that he gained admission in his thirty-sixth year. The academy was founded in 1820 by royal edict of Louis XVIII., although its name appeared as early as 1804 as an entirely ephemeral institution, the chief interest attaching to it being that Dr. Guillotin was one of its presidents. The French Revolution, with its ruthless submergence of all that pertained to the old order of things, dissolved all medical associations, and among these the Academy of Surgery and the Royal Society of Medicine, which after nearly a century of existence disappeared, to come to life again in the founding of the present Academy of Medicine. The initial concept of the academy was the formation of a body which, by its scientific labors and achievements, should be an asset to the state in matters of public health. The decree which constituted it lays down certain functions which it was to carry on. Among them were improvements in the method of vaccination against smallpox, the measures for the control of epidemic diseases, regulations as to and concerning legal jurisprudence, and the examina-

tion of and passing on new remedies, together with the limitation of the sale of nostrums, both those of French and those of foreign origin. While the present academy still holds the latter function, its work, to a large degree, is hampered by the administration of French law, as was pointed out in a former editorial.

The *Bulletin* of the Academy for Dec. 20–22, 1920, is devoted to a review of the history and labors of the society since its foundation. It records a century's achievement by men whose names are known the world over: Pinel, Laënnec and Broussais in the early days; Trousseau in the thirties; Villemin and Pasteur, and on down through the list of those who have added to the sum of certain knowledge which has lifted medicine from scientific guesswork to the dignity of a precise science.—*Journal of the American Medical Association.*

SPECIAL ARTICLES

RESISTANCE TO STEM RUST IN KANRED WHEAT

A CYTOLOGICAL study of *Puccinia graminis tritici* on Kanred wheat, conducted by the Office of Cereal Investigations in cooperation with the California Agricultural Experiment Station, has yielded several facts of interest.

The strain of stem rust under observation and herein reported was obtained from the Berkeley breeding plats. Seedlings of susceptible varieties of wheat grown in the greenhouse produced abundant pustules but, in repeated trials with Kanred, the fungus failed even to produce flecks.

It was found that the urediniospores germinate readily on Kanred leaves and that the germ tubes make their way directly to the stomata. On reaching a stoma, the tip of the germ tube swells to form an appressorium and practically all of the protoplasm flows into it, leaving the germ tube empty. Under favorable conditions for germination these appressoria develop promptly and in great numbers. Often one may observe two, three, and even four spores, with their appressoria, crowded together at a single stoma.

In spite of this, relatively few appressoria enter the stomatal slit in Kanred to form my-