

fields of native cane adjacent to, and surrounding, the field of Formosan cane. According to Dr. W. H. Weston,<sup>1</sup> the morphology of *Sclerospora philippinensis* is very nearly identical to that of *S. sacchari*. However, he states:

In the Philippines, in regions heavily infected with the maize mildew, sugar cane fields comprising many varieties grown under widely varying conditions and situated adjacent to the badly infected maize, and even containing some maize plants growing among and in contact with the young cane, have been under frequent observation during all stages of their development for over a year, and yet no case of infection with the downy mildew of maize has ever been seen.

He was, moreover, unable to cross-inoculate *S. philippinensis* from corn to sugar cane. The evidence is therefore strongly suggestive of the importation of the sugar-cane downy mildew, *Sclerospora sacchari* T. Miyaki, from Formosa.

The only literature on this disease which we have available here is the above-mentioned publication by Dr. Weston on the Philippine corn mildew, which incidentally discusses the cane mildew.

Measures have been taken to plow up the affected field, burn the affected stubble, and fallow the land. Steps to trace seed cane that emanated from the field are also under way, and it is possible that the disease may be entirely eradicated in the Philippines. The present brief note is presented as of possible interest to agronomists and plant quarantine officials of western countries. The importation of this disease and the recent experience in the Philippines with the introduction of Fiji disease of cane are two excellent examples of the need for rigid enforcement of plant quarantine regulations.

H. ATHERTON LEE,  
MARIANO G. MEDALLA

PLANT DISEASE LABORATORIES,  
BUREAU OF SCIENCE AND  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,  
MANILA

<sup>1</sup> Weston, W. H., "Philippine downy mildew of maize," *Jour. Agr. Res.*, XIV., No. 3, p. 97.

#### ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION FOR THE METRIC SYSTEM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: May I add a word of approval to what Dr. Frost has said in *re* (SCIENCE, May 13, 1921) "English Pronunciation for the Metric System" and suggest that the word ki'lo-me'ter should be pronounced with the accent upon the first and third syllables. In some quarters it is pronounced kilo'm-eter, contrary to the more general usage. This pronunciation, however, follows the custom in the case of thermo'meter, which is a much older word.

THADDEUS L. BOLTON

THE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY,  
PHILADELPHIA

#### GREGOR MENDEL AND THE SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC WORK AT BRÜNN

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Under date of December 29, 1920, I received a letter from Dr. Hugo Iltis of Brünn, Czechoslovakia, of which the following paragraphs are extracts:

The venerable old "Naturforschende Verein" of Brünn runs the risk of stopping scientific work for want of money. For the same reason our university extension work is cut short. In this condition of utter distress I apply to your kindness and ask you to help us. Wealthy friends of Mendelism could perhaps be induced to grant us the means to continue our scientific and popular education-work. If it would be possible to get an assistance of one thousand dollars for each of the two institutions, the "Naturforschende Verein," where Mendelism took its origin, and "University Extension of Brünn," where work has just begun, would be saved for the next two or three years.

When we published the Mendel-festival-volume, science and art flourished, and we tried by our work to prove worthy of Gregor Mendel. Now we have become so poor that we can not buy any scientific literature, nor can we have scientific treatises printed. We have made up our minds to sell our most precious treasure, the original manuscript of Gregor Mendel's most renowned work, "Versuche über Pflanzenhybriden," and I ask you to lend us your kind assistance in this matter too. Perhaps it could be sold by auc-