cisely as in the experiment of Baur. This result shows that the Vienna White rabbit is in reality a Dutch rabbit, with a completely white coat, as suggested by Punnett. Its eyes are blue as in blue rabbits regularly, but the choroid is white as in the whitest Dutch rabbits. The white rabbit which I have synthesized is a new type of white rabbit, entirely distinct from Vienna White.

W. E. CASTLE

BUSSEY INSTITUTION,
MARCH 28, 1922

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND MAJOR-GENERALS IN POLAND

A RECENT statement by the official Polish Bureau of Information in New York indicates the existence of an interesting condition in Poland regarding the status of university professors in that so-called backward country. The following is the statement, *verbatim:*

University professors in Poland have equal ranking with major generals, and, being state officials, are accorded all the rights and privileges enjoyed by major generals. According to a recent announcement, there are at present 638 full professors in the Polish universities and higher academic schools. The salaries of professors are somewhat higher than that of the undersecretary of state.

VERNON KELLOGG

WASHINGTON, D. C.

QUOTATIONS

"THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE"

"Mme. Bisson assisted Mlle. Eva in a cabinet in which I was present with other observers," he said. "Mlle. Eva was wrapped in a heavy rubber coat in order to protect her body from the light as much as possible. She entered into a trance and after a short time an aperture was opened in the front of the rubber coat so that I could look within. I saw the ectoplasm in a thick slimy band encircling her body like some monstrous worm.

"'May I touch it?' I asked Mme. Bisson.

"She replied, 'Yes.'

"I reached within the aperture and firmly grasped between thumb and forefinger the belt-like mass, and as I held it I felt it writhe—a living, pulsing substance."

Sir Arthur stated his belief that the medium would have died from shock had any attempt been made to remove this reputed ectoplasm, but the observers finally managed to pinch off a small portion, and this was hurried into a laboratory where Professor Richet of the University of Paris made a microscopic and chemical examination.

"It was found to consist of mucoid cells, epithelial cells, a clear, slimy fluid, certain carbonates, and other compounds. It was a sort of etherealized matter, if such a term may be employed.

He cited the circumstances of a number of seances, and in one case read testimonies of other observers who were present.

"In one instance Mrs. Wriedt of Detroit, an American medium of great power, came to my house and we held a séance in the nursery, a room certainly devoid of suspicious surroundings. My wife and I, Mrs. Wriedt, and my secretary, Major Wood, held hands as we sat around a table, and having learned the value of singing in such experiments we all sang softly in chorus. We knew the words of the hymn, 'Onward, Christian Soldiers,' and by common consent took up this air. Suddenly there burst out overhead a clear joyous baritone voice, singing with us word for word. I stopped and heard the voices of my wife, of Mrs. Wriedt, and of Major Wood. And above them all was this ringing baritone voice.

"If that isn't a spiritual phenomenon, what is it?" he cried. "I have a right to ask that question."

He narrated details of numerous other séances, of one in which he declared he saw the face of his dead mother, "as plain as a Rembrandt portrait emerging from the dark," every wrinkle and line as he had seen her last.

"Again," he said, "I went to Southsea, where a Welsh miner was staying. This was the medium, Evan Powell.

"In this séance there were four other observers besides myself. Powell sat in my room

[1] Concluding part of a lecture with this title given by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Carnegie Hall, New York City, on April 12, as reported in the *Evening Post.*

in a chair and asked me to tie him in place. So well did I tie him that we had to cut him out afterwards. Then he fell into a trance, and suddenly I became aware of dazzling celestial lights over his head. Then my son's voice cried out: 'Father, father.' The voice was not a yard from my face.

"Yes, my boy," I answered. "Yes, what is it?"

"'Father! Pardon!' he said, and I felt his hand on the top of my head, bowing down my head, and then felt his lips touch my forehead.

"I knew what he meant immediately. Only I could have known. He had never subscribed to my belief while alive, and now he had come back to tell me that it had been as I said.

"'Yes, my son,' I called back to him, 'you had a right to your own belief while here with us.'"

Again the speaker, wrought up to a high pitch, cried:

"If that isn't spiritual communication, what is it?" And the audience, listening intently to every word, broke out in a clatter of applause.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Studies of the Development and Larval Forms of Echinoderms. By TH. MORTENSEN. 266 pages, 33 plates and 102 text-figures. Published at the expense of the Carlsberg Fund. G. E. C. Gad, Copenhagen, 1921.

For some years, the well-known Danish zoologist, Dr. Th. Mortensen, has been gathering material in the embryological field to use in throwing light on the phylogeny of the echinoderms and on the interrelationships of families and genera in the most perplexing groups. A two year's journey around the world including stays of several weeks or more at Zamboanga and Jolo in the Philippines; Misaki, Japan; Sydney, N. S. W.; New Zealand; Hawaii; Nanaimo, British Columbia; La Jolla, California; Taboga Island, Panama; and Tobago, B. W. I., resulted in such an accumulation of material that the present noteworthy report has been prepared and published. Yet the indefatigable Danish investigator is again afield in search of more material and at the same time is hunting out the best place in the East Indies for the establishment of a permanent Scandinavian marine biological station!

As one turns the pages and studies the plates of this great contribution to embryology, it is hard to decide whether one should admire the more the industry, patience and skill of the investigator, or the ability to marshal his facts and set forth clearly his conclusions, revealed in the writing. Descriptions and figures alike leave nothing to be desired and even if one were not to accept all the suggested conclusions one can not question the care or the fairness with which they are expressed.

An introduction of 19 pages gives a brief but clear summary of what has so far been accomplished in acquiring knowledge of the embryology of those echinoderms which have free-living larval forms. Including Mortensen's own results we now have such knowledge, often very fragmentary it must be granted, of some 125 species. There is also much material accumulated concerning the life histories of many species which do not have free-living larvæ, but these are not included within the scope of the present report. The main purpose of Mortensen's research has been, to quote his own words, to throw light on "the interrelation between the larvæ and the adults in regard to a natural classification."

The second section of the report, designated "Special Part," deals with the larvæ of more than sixty identified species and nearly fifty additional larvæ, whose parent forms are unknown. No crinoids are discussed, as Dr. Mortensen has published his studies on crinoid development elsewhere. As experience demonstrated that the eggs of echini are more easily fertilized artificially than are those of other echinoderms, it is not surprising that nearly three fourths of Mortensen's work was done on members of that class, at least so far as results reveal. The early stages of no fewer than 43 species were studied and many species were carried along through weeks and sometimes months of larval life. One of the interesting results of this work was the demonstration of the hardiness of the larvæ of certain species. Thus some larvæ of the common West Indian rock-boring urchin (*Echinometra lucunter*), hatched from eggs fertilized