

hand and told my fortune. I asked the color of my voice. He asked me to count to twenty and to say the alphabet. I did so. He looked thoughtful, pondered a moment, and said, "You will think it strange, perhaps—your voice is blue-violet—an intellectual voice."

It has seemed to me that the color hearing was, in the case of my mother and of the Hindu, virtually the same—dove-color and blue-violet—the elements of the colors being alike.

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A HISTORICAL NOTE ON SEX DETERMINATION IN PIGEONS

IN connection with papers on sex determination in pigeons, setting forth the observations of C. O. Whitman and O. Riddle, it is interesting to find that an old French book records a part of the tradition of bird-fanciers regarding the tendency of some eggs to develop into males.

Riddle has summarized the extensive researches of Whitman and of himself as follows: "In the pigeons the first egg is smaller and is a male, the second is larger and usually a female, while as the season advances the smaller ones also are female-producers."¹

In the reprint collection of the U. S. Fisheries Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., the writer recently came upon a small booklet by Jules Gautier entitled "La Fécondation artificielle," Troisième édition, Paris, 1881, which has on page 21 the following footnote:

Chose remarquable! c'est que les oiseaux qui n'ont que deux oeufs par couvée (pigeons, colombes) en produisent un pour chaque sexe. Le premier pondu est toujours affecté au mâle, et celui-ci écôt ordinairement avant la femelle.

The shrewd observations of breeders of horses, cattle and dogs are also deserving of consideration in planning investigations on the physiological basis of sex determination, and have already been shown to be worth nearly as much as certain clinical records.

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ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

NOMENCLATURE: Notice to the zoological profession that suspension of the rules has been asked in the case of *Spirifer* Sow, 1816, and *Syringothyris* Winchell, 1863.

In accordance with prescribed routine, the secretary of the International Commission of Zoological

¹ Riddle, O., "The determination of sex and its experimental control," *Bull. Am. Ac. Med.*, Vol. 15, No. 5, October, 1914.

Nomenclature has the honor herewith to notify the members of the zoological profession that Miss Helen M. Muir Wood, of the British Museum of Natural History, has submitted the generic names *Spirifer* Sow, 1816, and *Syringothyris* Winchell, 1863, to the International Commission, for suspension of rules, with a view to retaining *Anomia striata* Martin as genotype of *Spirifer* and *Syringothyris typa* (s. *Spirifer carteri* Hall) as genotype of *Syringothyris*.

The argument is presented: (1) that under the rules *Anomia cuspidata* Martin is type of *Spirifer* and *Syringothyris* is synonym of *Spirifer*; (2) but for 70 years practically all authors have, in conscious opposition to the rules, taken *A. striata* as type of *Spirifer* and *Spirifer carteri* s. *Sy. typa* as type of *Syringothyris*; (3) so many species are involved in this instance that the application of the rules would present greater confusion than uniformity.

The secretary will postpone vote on this case for one year and invites expression of opinion for or against suspension in the premises.

C. W. STILES,
Secretary

HYGIENIC LABORATORY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

QUOTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF SCIENTIFIC WORK

L. H. BAEKELAND, just returned from an extensive trip with renewed appreciation for the opportunities and privileges of the United States, recently brought to our attention the desirability of having Congress recognize in some specific and definite way the triumphs of our men of science, particularly those in department circles. Then in the editorial section of the *New York World* for September 2, Ellwood Hendrick discussed the same sentiments and made a plea for such recognition by Congress. We wish to add our voice and urge that something be done in a proper way to have our law-makers realize that "the United States is the only civilized country in the world that does not recognize distinguished service by civilians. In the British Empire they make them lords or knights—and we can not do that. In France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Portugal, China, Japan, and even in Soviet Russia, they give decorations. We do not give decorations to civilians. Moreover, the insignia of decorations have been preempted by so many private organizations in this country that a button in the lapel of a man's coat is without its significance elsewhere."

But there are other ways in which this Nation can express its thanks. Perhaps some day we may go as far as our neighbor Canada and grant a substantial annuity to a man who has made a scientific discovery of great importance to the public. There seems no