

at the university on January 9. Professor Howard C. Warren, of the Department of Psychology; Henry Lane Eno, who gave the money for the building, and President John Grier Hibben were the speakers.

DR. ELMER DREW MERRILL, director of the Bureau of Science of the Philippine Islands and head of the department of botany in the University of the Philippines, has been appointed professor of agriculture and dean of the College of Agriculture in the University of California. Dr. Richard P. Boynton, head of the research laboratories under the Philippine government, has been appointed professor of veterinary science.

DR. JAMES E. KINDRED, formerly assistant professor of biology at Western Reserve University, has been appointed assistant professor of histology and embryology in the Medical School of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

DR. ANTON A. DAMPF, director of the Zoological Institute of Königsberg, has received a call from the Agricultural College of Mexico City to take over the post of professor of applied zoology and state entomologist. Dr. Dampf was formerly on the staff of the colonial government of German East Africa.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BUFFALO-GRASS

I HAVE just received an invitation to become a member of the National Society for the Preservation of Buffalo-grass.

Three other somewhat similar invitations lie unanswered upon my table.

On the average I receive three times a week, that is about one hundred and fifty times a year, invitations to join societies, associations, institutes, boards, or committees, which, according to the accompanying prospectuses are about to be called into being, or have been called into being, to promote educational, scientific, philosophic, economic, or social progress, reform, or discussion. I am usually given the alternative of becoming a "charter member" (dues \$100) or a member of the "common garden variety" (annual dues \$5.00).

I would not be human did I not feel highly complimented at being thus solicited, but I am a student of economics, and I ascertain by computation, that, if I graciously comply with all the invitations I receive, my expenditures will amount in the case of charter or life-memberships, which are solicited, to \$15,000 a year, an amount which vastly exceeds my salary; and that, if refraining from the glory of becoming a "charter member," I simply accept ordinary active membership, that will involve an expenditure of \$750 a year, really not an inconsiderable amount for a "poor devil."

I am prompted to ask, as I toy with the last accumulation of invitations which burden my desk, whether upon the whole it would not be better, instead of multiplying agencies, to give more support to those which already exist, and whether concerted action might not tend to alleviate the sorrows of those who like myself have a disposition to be useful in their day and generation, but are forced by the *res angusta domi* to refrain from having a part in these commendable movements. Should not amalgamation rather than multiplication be contended for?

Of course there is a great deal to be said against such procedure. It would tend to arrest the seething activities of noble minds. It might reduce the revenues of the United States Post Office, not to speak of the postal revenues of other countries. It would interfere with the ambitions of many hitherto unknown persons to have their names printed as members of boards, committees, societies, etc. To such persons it might be almost heart-breaking to be deprived of the opportunity to shine in a body designed to be "national" or "international" in its scope and purpose. When a citizen of Podunk (a locality made famous by the after-dinner speeches of the Hon. Chauncey M. Depew) has become a member of the "Executive Council" of the "National Society for the Preservation of Buffalo-grass," he becomes to a certain extent an object of veneration in Podunk. It seems cruel to deprive of honor one who has thus attained to exaltation among his fellow-townsmen, by proposing that the National Society for the Preservation of Buffalo-grass should be merged into the National Society of Agrostology, which does not confine itself to Buffalo-grass, but promotes the preservation and propagation of timothy-grass and clover, in fact of all grasses. Furthermore, it is urged, and with great weight, that in these days of specialization, we ought to have men who are willing to concentrate their attention upon Buffalo-grass. Buffalo-grass is disappearing, so we are informed, from vast areas, where at one time it furnished nutriment to millions of buffaloes. It is alleged that Buffalo-grass may shortly become extinct. Of this it is frightful to think. That a grass, which "God made," and which in turn made the buffalo, should die out over hundreds of square miles, which once were covered by it, is cause for poignant regret, and it seems cruel to even suggest a curtailment of the zeal and intelligent efforts of the philagrostic ladies and gentlemen in New York, Washington and Podunk, who are inflamed by a desire to save for the nation the herbage which once carpeted the prairies. I instinctively shrink from such action. Nevertheless, when requested to support the cause, I am constrained, in spite of the inward remonstrances of my loving disposition, to ask whether, after all, the National Society of Agrostology might not do the work which is

proposed to be done by the National Association for the Preservation of Buffalo-grass. Could not the lesser be served by the greater? Might not the part be included in the whole?

I am the more urged to these reflections, when I recall the fact that there are parties who are now thinking of forming a National Society for the Preservation of Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and the Trailing Arbutus. Poor things! It seems, that unless something is done, the Trailing Arbutus will become extinct at a not far-off date, and the laurel of our hill-sides will all be used up for Christmas decorations. These beautiful plants will go the way of the Passenger Pigeon. Nevertheless there is the awful consideration which confronts me, as I know it does a number of other kind-hearted men, that we are not able out of the slender resources of our salaries to pay the expenses of a president, a secretary, and all the printing, which are involved in carrying on a campaign from year to year, possibly from century to century, for the Preservation of Buffalo-grass or even Trailing Arbutus or Mountain Laurel.

What are we going to do about it? As I look at my desk piled high with requests to contribute to such most worthy causes, I sigh for "the wealth of Ormus and of Ind." Then I turn to my beggarly bank-book, which I have just had balanced, showing that I have available for expenditure the sum of \$.23. (Skid-doo!) It is indeed cruelly distressing to think that I can not help to satisfy all the brilliant philagrostic, philozoic, and philanthropic yearnings of an agitated nation. But I have only twenty-three cents in bank!

W. J. HOLLAND

OPALINA JAPONICA SUGIYAMA [NOT METCALF]

IN Bulletin 120 of the United States National Museum I described as new *Opalina japonica* from *Rana japonica* from Japan. I have since learned that Takesi Sugiyama had already given this name to an *Opalina* from this same host. Although in both infections which I studied the parasites were a little smaller than in Sugiyama's material, there seems no doubt but his forms and mine are of the same species. The name and both his and my descriptions stand, but the authorship of the name is his. Sugiyama's paper¹ is careful and painstaking and is illustrated by beautiful drawings, many in color, which are well worth study.

MAYNARD M. METCALF

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¹ "Studies on the structure and the nuclear division in a Japanese species of *Opalina*, *O. japonica*, nov. spec.": in Journ. Coll. Agriculture, Imp. Univ. Tokyo, Vol. VI, no. 4, Nov. 20, 1920.

THE NORTHERN RANGE OF THE SCORPION

IN a recent communication to SCIENCE (Sept. 28, 1923) Mr. R. L. Webster records the finding of *Vejois boreus* (Girard) at several localities in the "Bad Lands" district of North Dakota and mentions its occurrence, as indicated by specimens in the National Museum, in Oregon and Idaho in addition to more southern states. As these records do not adequately indicate the northern range of this scorpion, it seems desirable to note that it is not infrequently met with in Montana, northern Idaho and Washington, where I have personally taken specimens close to the Canadian border. Recently Professor C. T. Brues placed in my hands for identification a specimen of this same species which had been taken by Mr. F. S. Carr at Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, a place in Lat. 50° N. and noted for its low temperatures.

R. V. CHAMBERLIN

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

I have found scorpions in two localities in Montana. In April, 1922, I found three individuals in a crack in a sandstone escarpment in Township 35 North, Range 1 West, Toole county, Montana. A single individual was found in Section 21, Township 2 South, Range 20 East, one mile west of Columbus, Stillwater county, Montana. It was not convenient to collect the animals and the species was not determined. So far as the writer is aware scorpions have not heretofore been reported from Montana.

EARNEST GUY ROBINSON

BILLINGS, MONTANA

THE MARQUESAS

LARGE amounts are annually donated by men of means to various institutions for explorations and research for the advancement of archeology, botany, astronomy, biology and other sciences.

The dying out of the populations in some of the Pacific archipelagoes and the consequent gradual dying out of the seedless breadfruits would seem to call for action of this kind before it is too late. In doing so, not only would some of the most interesting relics of a vanishing people be saved from extinction, but unlike the vast material preserved in museums, they could be made useful for coming generations in furnishing a valuable food.

In "White Shadows in the South Seas," Frederick O'Brien says that the days of the Marquesans are numbered. In an article in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1919, J. W. Church corroborates this and says that his census of that year found only 1,950 people alive in the Marquesas, and that in the five preceding years the population had decreased