Upon request Professor Rosenberg kindly sent the writer seeds of his *C. "Reuteriana"* in 1921. These achenes were identical with those of *C. capillaris* (L.) Wallr. (= *C. virens*), and a large number of plants grown from this seed were all *C. capillaris*. The diploid chromosome number for *C. capillaris* is 6. Inasmuch as the normal diploid number for the plants designated by Rosenberg as *C. Reuteriana* is also 6 and plants grown from the same lot of seed were *C. capillaris,* there can be no doubt that *C. Reuteriana,* as used by Rosenberg, was a misnomer. The responsibility for this error seems to rest primarily with the Copenhagen Botanic Garden, whence Dr. Rosenberg obtained the material in question under the name, *Crepis Reuteriana.* As the determinations of this botanic garden are usually very accurate, Dr. Rosenberg assumed that the material in question was correctly labeled. This case illustrates how important it is that cytologists be very particular as to the identity of the material on which they publish. This is more apparent now than it was only a few years ago, on account of the bearing of recent cytologic, genetic and taxonomic research on phylogeny and evolution.

The chromosome number of *C. Reuteriana* has not yet been determined.

More recent references to Rosenberg's *C. "Reuteriana,"* for example by Heilborn,[3] and the probability that the true *C. Reuteriana* will figure in later investigations, make it desirable that this error in nomenclature be corrected without delay.

The writer has had the privilege of showing this note to Professor Rosenberg, who approves its publication.

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GERMANIC PSEUDO-SCIENCE

I DESIRE to comment very briefly on a pretentious looking publication received recently entitled, "Pflanzenverbreitung und Entwicklung der Kontinente." The author is Edgar Irmscher and the article, which runs to 235 pages and 33 figures, is published by the Institut für allgemeine Botanik, of Hamburg.

The author concludes that the present distribution and the past history of plants can best be explained by the so-called Wegener hypothesis of peripatetic continents and wandering poles. He displays the same ignorance of geological history as does Wegener, but it is not my purpose to waste space in an analysis of his conclusions, which, however, seem to me to be entirely contrary to the facts.

What is serious in its effect on the progress of science and on true scientific method is that a man can get publication for erroneous statements about which he knows nothing, as, for example (p. 70), that the core of Potosi Mountain in Bolivia is not rhyolite, but conglomerate, slate and tuff; that the Concepcion-Arauco flora of the coal measures of southern Chile is Pleistocene in age (p. 81), when actually it is interbedded and overlain with an extensive lower Miocene marine fauna; that the fossil flora from near Tumbez in northwestern Peru is Pliocene in age (p. 67), when it is interbedded with an extensive lower Miocene marine fauna that can be most conclusively correlated with the Miocene of Central America and the Antilles. Much more of a similar sort might be cited.

The fundamental basis for useful scientific speculation is that it shall explain observed facts, or at least that the speculator shall endeavor to substantiate his conclusions by facts of observation, not that facts of observation shall be misrepresented to fit the demands of a subjective hypothesis.

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[3] Heilborn, O., "Chromosome numbers and dimensions, species formation and phylogeny in the genus Carex." *Hereditas,* Vol. V, 1924, pp. 183–4.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

A Text-book of General Physiology for Colleges. By PHILIP H. MITCHELL. McGraw-Hill Book Co. 748 + xix pages.

TEACHERS of college physiology have for a number of years felt the need of a text-book suitable for elementary students, one which would present the more modern developments of the subject with less detail and from a more general point of view than any of the numerous existing works for medical students. Philip H. Mitchell's "Text-book of General Physiology" has been written to meet this need, and the cordial reception which it has received since its publication several months ago indicates that it is likely to fill successfully its intended place.

The book, in the words of its author, "is designed for use by college students who have studied introductory biology, chemistry and physics, but have not studied the organic and physical chemistry that seem prerequisite to the intelligent use of the advanced text-books of physiology and biochemistry which are now available." It is evident that there are several possible ways of attempting to meet the needs of this class of students. At the one extreme would be a text-book of "General Physiology" in the sense in which most readers of the *Journal of General Physiology* and of the writings of Bayliss understand this term. Such a book might use illustrations from the