

subscribed to these resumed *Annales* which, at the present state of foreign exchange, cost less than three dollars a volume. This lack of interest on the part of American scientists in the scientific work of this French institution is the more to be wondered at, since European countries on the economic footing of Austria, Russia and Germany have found the ways and means to resume their normal subscriptions for their learned institutions."

THE U. S. Public Health Service will make an extensive survey in Polk, Hillsborough and Citrus counties, Florida, of malaria. Headquarters of the investigation will be at Lakeland under the direction of Bruce Mayne, assistant technical engineer, who investigated the malaria situation in this community in 1917. The present survey will require several months.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has received a gift of \$600,000 from the Nichols Foundation, Inc., established by Dr. William H. Nichols, which is to be used to erect a new chemistry building at University Heights. Chancellor Brown announced the members of the chemistry building committee as follows: General John J. Carty, Dr. W. H. Nichols, Professor A. E. Hill, Professor Collins P. Bliss and LeRoy E. Kimball.

THE late Miss Helen Culver has bequeathed \$600,000 to the University of Chicago. According to the terms of the will this bequest is to be added to the Helen Culver Fund, founded in 1895.

THE General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation has made a gift of \$350,000 for neurological teaching and research at Harvard University. This amount is to be added to the approximately similar amount employed by the university for this purpose and it is to be used in connection with the work at the Boston City Hospital as the new buildings there are developed. The work is to be under the charge of Dr. Stanley Cobb, professor of neurology in the university.

IT is announced that Princeton University within the next two years will expend a half-million dollars in the construction of a new engineering laboratory.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM D. FUNKHOUSER, head of the department of zoology at the University of Kentucky, has been made dean of the graduate school.

HAROLD J. BARRETT, instructor in chemistry at the Ohio State University, has been appointed assistant professor at the South Dakota State College.

THE Siamese government has recently completed negotiations for the appointment of Dr. Everett C. Albritton, of the department of physiology at the

University of Buffalo, as professor of physiology at the Chulalongkorn University at Bangkok.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR W. L. MISER, of the Armour Institute of Technology, was recently appointed professor of mathematics at Vanderbilt University.

DR. FRIDJOF NANSEN, the Arctic explorer and Norwegian statesman, has been elected rector of the University of St. Andrews.

PROFESSOR RICHARD GANS, of the University of La Plata, has been appointed professor of physics at the University of Königsberg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A NEW UNITED STATES WEED: HYMENOPHYSA PUBESCENS¹

THE U. S. National Museum received recently for identification from Mrs. M. E. Soth, of Pocatello, Idaho, specimens of a cruciferous plant evidently not described in the manuals covering the Rocky Mountain region. The plant was determined from descriptions as *Hymenophyssa pubescens* C. A. Mey., but since no herbarium material of the genus was available for comparison, a specimen was forwarded to the Berlin Botanic Garden, where Dr. O. E. Schulz confirmed the writer's tentative determination.

The genus *Hymenophyssa* is reported to consist of three species, two of them described from Persia and Turkestan. *H. pubescens*, the original species, is a native of the Altai region of central Asia, where it grows in moist subsaline places on the desert plains. Concerning its occurrence at Pocatello, Mrs. Soth supplies the following information:

The colony of this plant has increased greatly in extent and density since I discovered it two seasons ago. It occurs at the edge of a grain field which previously had been in alfalfa for several years. There has been so little cultivation of the area that the colony has not been disturbed very much, and has spread among the grass and weeds toward the ditch bank that borders the field, until it occupies a space about twelve by eighteen feet. The habit of the plant in shooting up flowering branches from the lower parts after the first fruits ripen makes it conspicuous at this season (September). I should not expect this colony to be eradicated easily by any ordinary process of tillage. My guess as to its origin would be that the seeds were mixed with those of alfalfa or possibly some sort of imported grain seed. I have found a few plants in other localities, to which seed probably was carried with hay from this field. I have no doubt that we are recording the first stages in the establishment of another weed that will be quite common in a few more seasons.

Hymenophyssa pubescens is a perennial, but flowers the first year from seed. In general appearance and

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habit it is strongly suggestive of *Lepidium draba*, as noted by Meyer in his original description. It may be recognized by its erect habit; clasping-sagittate stem leaves, toothed and with a dense pubescence of fine simple hairs; the long racemes of small white flowers; and the small, globose and inflated, pubescent pods.

Coming from a region similar in climate to some parts of the western United States, this plant may become as widely established as certain other recent introductions. Another Old World plant of the same family, *Lepidium perfoliatum*, has spread with almost incredible rapidity through the Rocky Mountain states during the last few years.

PAUL C. STANDLEY

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE PRIMARY FOODPLANT OF THE MELON APHID

A FACT known to those who are familiar with the habits of aphids is the seasonal migration of many species of these insects from their overwintering host plant to other vegetation which is colonized by the summer generations.

Certain species of aphids are of economic importance only while on their summer (or secondary) food plants, as would obviously be the case if their overwintering (or primary) host plant chanced to be a weed or vegetation of little economic value. Thus it happens that an aphid may be well known for its summer damage to important crops long before its overwintering habits have been discovered.

Such has been the history of the melon aphid (or the cotton aphid, as the same insect is also known in the south). This insect is a noted pest the world over, as it colonizes cotton, economic plants of the gourd family and certain other valuable annuals. It will accept, too, succulent, rapidly growing shoots of some shrubs and trees, and is recognized as one of the orange pests.

Since this insect does not deposit its overwintering eggs on any of these plants on which it is known as a summer pest, and since, in all parts of the country having cold winters, it would be impossible for such an aphid to overwinter without providing for an egg-stage somewhere, it has long been thought by entomologists that the melon aphid must be a migratory species existing during the winter in some unsuspected disguise.

But what plant it seeks for its winter quarters and from what plant it migrates each season when it is time for its summer depredations has remained a mystery.

It has, therefore, been with no little interest that I

have watched the results of a series of experiments which I have recently been conducting with a certain aphid commonly infesting orpine (live-forever). This aphid causes a ruffling of the orpine leaves which renders its presence conspicuous. It has several color varieties—yellow, pale green, olive green, blackish green—the same range of color varieties, indeed, for which the melon aphid is famous. In structural characters, also, the orpine aphid and the melon aphid are twins.

This season I caged spring migrants (winged females) from orpine on squash, where they settled and produced young which have grown to maturity on the squash. I placed infested orpine plants near growing melons in the greenhouse; and some of the aphids voluntarily left the orpine and went over to the melons and there established thriving colonies of typical *A. gossypii*.

It does not, therefore, seem premature to report that the primary food plant of *Aphis gossypii* is *Sedum Telephium*, from which it migrates to its various summer food plants.

EDITH M. PATCH

MAINE AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION

ILLITERACY IN THE COLLEGES

I HAVE felt rather out of patience with articles recently published, enumerating gross errors made by students. Our young people now coming into the universities and colleges have not always had the best advantages, and it is reasonable to expect a certain percentage to be ignorant of many things. If I, a mature teacher of long experience, were given an examination in the elements of engineering, the result would be pathetic or ridiculous to any engineer, according to his point of view. Nevertheless it becomes a serious matter if men go through college, and are sent out to teach others, while incompetent to do tolerably good work or write English correctly. In the field of entomology, we have recently seen the grossest errors in the construction of scientific names in taxonomic papers, emanating from workers in leading institutions. The principles of so-called neolatin allow extraordinary latitude, but the errors referred to result from mere ignorance. The other day a man graduating from a reputable college applied for a teaching position in the University of Colorado. He was supported by a letter from his major professor and a photograph showing him in the costume of an athlete. We had decided not to accept him, but before we could write we received a letter, addressed to "Proff. —," stating that "Dr. — of [a large state university] has just made me a very fine assistantship