If one suggestion of Engler's is adopted, the violence done to the guiding principle of phylogeny is still worse than if currently accepted views are correct. "Mir scheint die Annahme berechtigt, dass bei der Entstehung einzelliger Organismen gleich anfangs mit verschiedenen Genen ausgestattete Schizophyten, Schizomyceten und Schizophyceen, Myxomyceten, Flagellaten, Dinoflagellaten, Bacillariaceen und Conjugaten entstanden." This appears to propose that all these divisions arose independently from inorganic matter. A plant kingdom, including them, is then no more "natural" than a kingdom of the stones.

These various creatures do not disappear from the course in botany, just because they are not plants. To the extent that they are subjects of interest, this is still the most convenient place to become acquainted with them. Also, some knowledge of them is necessary for the understanding of real plants; just as one would begin with Chinese art and literature if his subject of study were Japanese civilization, and as the historian of a war must first picture its background. Anthoceros is not regarded as a fern, however important a knowledge of its life history is for the understanding of theirs.

The most of the differences between different texts and different courses are very unimportant. It is, however, very important that common sense, consistency, reasonableness, never be ignored. There is no other one thing so important in systematic biology as the fact that the grouping of organisms reflects and expresses their true relationships. It is inconsistent and unreasonable to begin the course in botany by doing violence to this basic principle.

Summary: The living things are not all plants or animals. Nature has been more resourceful, more thorough in trying out the possibilities. Another kingdom, that of the bacteria, using the word in an inexact sense, is likewise world-wide in distribution, probably most numerous in individuals and very important in its human relations. And, beside these three major kingdoms, there are a number of minor kingdoms, not unsuccessful, but much less successful lines of evolution from the primitive beginnings of life.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NEW OXFORD SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY

THE Sir William Dunn school of pathology at Oxford University, which has been three years building and has cost £70,000, was handed over on March 11 by the Sir William Dunn trustees, the directors of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, to the university. The opening ceremony was attended by many leading scientists, as well as by practically all the senior members of the university.

The new building will be under the direction of Professor Georges Dreyer, who has been professor of pathology at Oxford University since 1907. It has been designed to give the best modern facilities for teaching and research. In the old department there was somewhat inferior accommodation for about twenty-eight students. In the new building there is room for at least fifty, with every modern facility. Though by no means the largest, it is one of the best equipped institutions of its kind in the world. The old department could not house more than ten research workers, some of them with inadequate quarters. Here there is ample accommodation for twenty-five, and each is equipped with a large room, electric light and power and the latest appliances and fittings.

The general design of the building aims at simplicity. There are three corridors, one above the other, running the entire length of the building. Research will occupy the eastern and teaching the western wing, and at the rear there is modern accommodation for animals. The study of the effect of light and of X-rays on living matter, the chemistry research and the biochemistry research are each furnished with special apartments.

In the basement is a low-pressure chamber, which was designed during the war by Captain H. F. Pierce, now associate in physiology in Columbia University, built in the United States in 1917, and taken to France for testing air pilots. It was acquired by Professor Dreyer at the armistice from the American air force, and has since been used in a number of physiological experiments on the effect of altitude in producing mountain sickness and other disturbances and for other experiments. The school has on the ground floor an ample provision of space for the development of a fine departmental library.

Mr. C. D. Seligman, who made the presentation, said in part:

> The trustees felt strongly that it was far better, in the interests of mankind, to get at the primary causes of disease than to deal with disease when it had manifested itself. It was essential for this purpose that there should be a continued and sustained supply of men and women of the kind whose minds lent themselves to research, and what better place could they have for assembling such minds than the great seats of learning? While the Sir William Dunn Trustees had endowed a school of biochemistry at Cambridge and a school of pathology at Oxford, the Rockefeller trustees had endowed a school of biochemistry at Oxford and a school of pathology at Cambridge.