

the red perennial clover, and on page 109 a dried specimen of *Trifolium pratense* is presented. The undersigned has been unable to locate any other copy of the 1816 edition and wishes to do so in order to ascertain whether this error is found in all copies or is peculiar to this one copy and will appreciate any information as to libraries where other copies may be consulted.

A. J. PIETERS

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

## QUOTATIONS

### THE WORLD POULTRY CONGRESS

ALTHOUGH from a spectacular standpoint the recent Poultry Congress at Ottawa was an unqualified success, in consequence of which the poultry industry in Canada will derive considerable benefit, it is difficult at present to form an estimate of the educational value of the proceedings and to assess the importance of the information derived from the numerous papers and discussions. There would appear to be some justification for critical comment upon the fact that papers were not printed in advance, so that, as five sections were in session at the same time in different halls, delegates experienced great difficulty in gaining more than a vague impression of the whole, while the general public must await the publication of the official proceedings before it will be possible to summarize the educational effect of the congress.

The general impression, which is confirmed by the evidence of delegates, is that insufficient time was available to do justice to the many papers presented by authorities in the numerous branches of the industry. Not only did the "five-ring circus," as an American delegate described it, create confusion among those who were desirous of getting full educational value, but the absence of printed papers and the short time allowed for each paper necessarily limited the scope and the value of such discussion as was permitted. In view of the fact that the next congress is to be held in England in 1930 it will be necessary to formulate a policy that will do justice to the educational side, though it may be impossible to emulate the generous manner in which the Canadian government gave the poultry industry the best publicity it has ever enjoyed. The fortunate circumstance which enabled the Prince of Wales and Mr. Baldwin to visit the congress set the seal upon the efforts of the Canadian authorities to make the event a thorough success in the spectacular sense.

It is the more regrettable, therefore, that doubt exists as to whether the original purpose of world's poultry congresses was sufficiently considered. The International Association of Poultry Investigators

and Instructors inaugurated these triennial congresses with a view to enabling research workers and educationists to express their views and discuss experiences; and one suspects that interest in the Canadian congress spread so widely that the authorities found themselves with a plethora of good things which could only be embraced in the program by the quintuple-session plan. Even that would have been effective had the papers been printed in readiness for the proceedings, and it seems essential that that precaution should be taken at future congresses unless a drastic measure of compression is adopted by limiting the number of papers.

A further point which must be borne in mind for future congresses arises from apparent differences between investigators and practical poultrymen. It is conceivable that some of the former approach the task of research from the laboratory standpoint, whereas some practical men are so exacting as to demand that all investigation shall begin and end in the poultry yard. Doubtless there is a measure of reason on both sides, and a considerable amount of latitude must be allowed. It can not be denied, however, that research is a means to practical progress, and in connection with poultry-keeping its success must be measured by what it achieves in smoothing the path of the practical worker. That in turn depends upon close association and mutual confidence between the two classes, so that every effort should be made to interest scientific investigators in the every-day problems of the practical poultrymen at the same time as the latter are induced to take research workers into their confidence.—*The London Times*.

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Elements of Physical Biology.* By ALFRED J. LOTKA. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins Co., 1925. xxx + pp. 460.

ONCE in a while some one writes a really new book such as "The Fitness of the Environment," "Winnie the Pooh," "Die Ausdehnungslehre" or "Oedipus Tyrannus." Sometimes such works are immediately approved like the first two; sometimes, as was the case with the third, not even the brightest minds of the time seem to appreciate the significance of the book and a generation or two elapses before the author comes into his own. With respect to the last, it was crowned at once with approval but perhaps not understood until the advent of psychoanalysis millenniums later, although to one who knows his Greek drama not quite so poorly as his psychoanalysis it sometimes seems as though the complex that afflicted Oedipus was the opposite of the Oedipus complex! Lotka's "Physical Biology" is a new, not merely a