The movements of the opossum embryo are adequately described by Carl G. Hartman.[1] My observations, although more limited, corroborate his account of the birth of the opossum's young. It is an interesting point to note that in this instance the hind limbs of the foetus were comparatively inactive.

There were thirteen young in the pouch of this animal. Dr. H. E. Jordan determined the greatest length (in this instance the vertex-breech distance) of seven of the embryos to be as follows:

Number of embryos	Greatest length
2	10 mm
2	11 "
1	11.5 "
2	12 "

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A NEW RHIZOPUS ROT OF RUTABAGA

IN November, 1927, the junior author found in one of the Evanston fruit and vegetable stores a number of bushels of rutabagas heavily infected with Rhizopus. The rot produced is a typical wet rot such as is produced by other species of Rhizopus, but it works slowly as compared with *Rhizopus nigricans* Ehrb. For example, where *R. nigricans* produces a wet rot in three days, the new Rhizopus requires six days. Inoculation experiments have shown the latter to produce a typical rot in carrot, cucumber, eggplant, green pepper, Hubbard squash, onion, pumpkin, sweet-potato and tomato.

The fungus, when studied in pure culture, proved to be an undescribed species and for it the name *Rhizopus fusiformis* sp. nov. is proposed.

Rhizopus fusiformis sp. nov.

Forming on bread at first a white, cottony mycelium, becoming in age a loose, light gray turf 0.5–1.5 cm high. Sporangiophores 1–2 mm tall, 13.5–17 μ in diameter, trailing, irregularly branched in umbels of two to six sporangiophores, sometimes again branched with a fusiform swelling immediately below the insertion of the branches, some of which may end in sporangia. Sporangia but sparsely developed, globose, 70–113 μ in diameter, with deliquescent wall. Columella spherical, 30–65 μ in diameter. Spores angularly subglobose to suboval, pale gray, smooth, 5–7 x 3.5–7 μ. Zygospores not found.

Isolated from rutabagas rotting in an Evanston store.

Rhizopus fusiformis Dawson and Povah is characterized by its cottony mycelium, its sparse production of sporangia and its branched sporangiophores with a fusiform swelling at the base of the insertion of the branches. It resembles *R. nodosus* Namysl. in the production of swellings on the mycelium, but differs from it in the shape and location of the swellings. In the mode of branching, it recalls *R. arrhizus* Fischer, but differs from it in the size of the sporangia and the production of swellings.

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WHAT DRAWS MEN INTO GEOLOGY?

DR. GEORGE H. ASHLEY,[1] in discussing the present standing of geology, writes, "To the world at large, geology has taken a back seat." The remedy he proposes is largely that of presenting geology in a more popular and palatable form to the general public. This is a most desirable aim; but, to the writer, another serious phase of the problem is to attract to geology the ablest type of student. Recently, the late Professor Nathaniel Shaler's course in geology at Harvard has been cited, by a leading educator of Columbia University, as an example of what an "easy" course might lead to in attracting large numbers of students and in stimulating many able men to take up geology as their life work. Professor Shaler's enthusiasm certainly must have been contagious and his lectures stimulating. But were there not external cooperating factors to aid at that time in producing professional geologists? As Dr. Ashley has pointed out,

> The average man of culture fifty years ago had a better knowledge of these things (geological concepts) than the man of culture to-day. . . . We were a new country, and the men who explored this new country and told us of its mineral wealth loomed large in public affairs.

The United States Geological Survey, which dates its period of greatest growth from that time, then afforded opportunity for the employment and training of geologists and created a demand for them.

At the present time the University of British Columbia has an outstanding record in North America for the number of its graduates who have proceeded to advanced work in geology during the last few years. At my request, Dr. S. J. Schofield furnished me with a list of them, which shows that during the last six years twenty-seven graduates of British Co-

[1] *Anatomical Record*, Vol. 19, 1920, p. 256.

[1] "Geology and the World at Large." Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section G—Geology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Nashville, 1927. SCIENCE, Vol. lxvii, 1928, pp. 22–24.