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<i>British Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Size and Form in Plants:</i> DR. F. O. BOWER	227
<i>Malpighi as Anatomist:</i> PROFESSOR A. W. MEYER	234

Scientific Events:

<i>Unveiling of Tablet to Sir William and Sir Joseph Hooker; International Society of Experimental Phonetics; The International Horticultural Congress; Scientific and Technical Societies; Celebration by the Missouri Botanical Garden</i>	238
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	241

Discussion:

<i>Chemical Activation of Quartz Surfaces:</i> DR. P. G. NUTTING. <i>A Celestial Searchlight:</i> DR. CHARLES F. BROOKS. <i>Surface Tension:</i> DR. WILLIAM M. GROSVENOR. <i>College Training for the Fisheries:</i> LEWIS RADCLIFFE. <i>Support of the Zoological Record:</i> W. L. MCATEE	243
--	-----

Quotations:

<i>A Great Astronomer</i>	248
---------------------------------	-----

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:

<i>An Improved Method for the Study of Nutritional Anemia in the White Rat:</i> PROFESSOR W. B.	
---	--

NEVENS and D. D. SHAW. <i>Some New Methods and Combinations in Plant Microtechnique:</i> DR. ANSEL F. HEMENWAY	249
--	-----

Special Articles:

<i>Data on a Protein-Antibody System; The Amount of Circulating Precipitin Following the Injection of a Soluble Antigen:</i> DR. MICHAEL HEIDELBERGER and DR. FORREST E. KENDALL. <i>Correlation of Antillean Fossil Floras:</i> DR. CARLOTTA J. MAURY	252
<i>Science News</i>	x

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SIZE AND FORM IN PLANTS¹

By Dr. F. O. BOWER

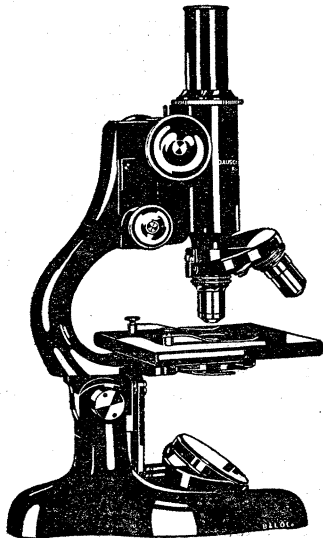
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Two years have passed since the association last met in Britain. Events have happened in that interval which mark the close of the Darwinian Epoch. Down House, in which Darwin lived and worked, has been bought, restored and endowed by Mr. Buckston Browne and presented by him to the association, who hold it in custody for the nation. The house is now open as a shrine to those who treasure Darwin's memory. They may enter the study where the "Origin of Species" was penned, or wander out to the Sand Walk, and draw such inspiration as those spots may yet afford to those who are face to face with problems cognate to his own. These years have also severed personal links with Darwin himself. Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, who died in December, 1928, had been

¹ Address of the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Bristol, September 3, 1930.

his frequent correspondent. It was he who, more than any other, carried the evolutionary stimulus forward into the botanical schools of Britain. Sir Edwin Ray Lankester, whose portrait by Orpen was a poignant feature of last year's academy, died in August, 1929. Not only was he the leading zoologist of his time, but he has left a deep impress on general morphology, for he was the first to analyze from the evolutionary aspect the degrees of "sameness" of parts, whether in animals or in plants. These two octogenarians were among the latest links between Darwin himself and living men of science. And so this last meeting of the association before its centenary next year falls at a nodal point in the personal history of evolution.

Morphology, or the study of form, was closely interwoven with the life work of Darwin, and—to



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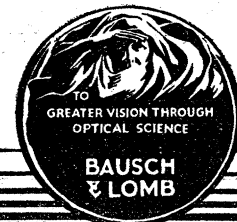
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