

a natural tendency to twist the tree from the left to the right. In other words, it would appear, if this explanation is correct, that the tree is a recording weather vane.

On return to his office this fall, Dr. Cahn replied to my letter and stated that he had come to about the same conclusion and suggested that this note be put in *SCIENCE*.

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"RICKETTSIA" AND "SYMBIONTS"

GLASER's comment on our paper¹ (*SCIENCE*, September 4, 1931, p. 243) does not help to clarify the problem. We are in entire agreement that "Tinctorial properties *alone* (italics ours) do not constitute valid taxonomic characters." We attempted to point out that there are in the insects studied by us organisms

which differ morphologically, tinctorially and culturally from other known bacteria as well as from the so-called "Symbionts." Symbionts in various insects probably consist of a variety of bacteria, while the organisms grown by us were uniform in character and appeared in every way to correspond to the description of classic *Rickettsia*. Therefore, we urged that for sake of clarity we cease confusing "Rickettsia" with "Symbionts." Even conservative bacteriologists, and we count ourselves in that class, have recognized the wisdom and conservatism of dividing the erstwhile genus *Bacillus* into a number of distinct genera. Differentiation of unrelated groups can hardly be considered "splitting," even by the ultra-conservative.

I. J. KLIGLER
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JERUSALEM,
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REPORTS

FORMAL OPENING OF THE NEW BERMUDA BIOLOGICAL STATION FOR RESEARCH

THE formal opening of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc., and the induction into office of its new director, Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, took place at the new home of the station, "Shore Hills," St. George's West, Bermuda, on Wednesday afternoon, January 6, in the presence of His Excellency, the Governor of Bermuda, General Sir Thomas Astley-Cubitt, K.C.B., etc., and members of his family, members of the Colonial Government and more than five hundred invited guests. Six trustees of the station went down from New York with five guests, two of the Bermuda trustees were present and took a leading part in all the arrangements.

The band of the Northumberland Fusiliers was present in brilliant uniforms, and their music added materially to the pleasure of those attending the function. Special trains on the newly opened railroad conveyed guests from Hamilton and St. George, and Bermuda papers reported the gathering as "the most distinguished and representative seen on any public occasion for many years."

The governor and his party were met by the trustees at the south entrance and were seated in the open court, while the other guests came in by the north entrance and were seated in the verandas and balconies surrounding the court, where the exercises took place. Mr. F. G. Gosling, trustee of the station and for thirty years active in the development of scientific work in Bermuda, opened the exercises with a brief account of the steps which had led up to the

present consummation. Thirty years ago, he said, the Bermuda Natural History Society was formed with the prime object of establishing the Bermuda Biological Station and the Public Aquarium. On every occasion the legislature had granted money when approached by the society and this culminated last year when £5,500 was given to assist in acquiring the present site. The Rockefeller Foundation had most generously supported the scheme and had made possible the present splendid development. The result was that to-day Bermuda could take great pride in the part played by the government and people in the establishment of the station, which was a purely scientific institution, without any commercial object or aim. He especially commended the action of the trustees in appointing a British subject as the first director of the reorganized station, which statement was loudly applauded. He then introduced Dr. E. L. Mark, of Harvard University, the former director of the old biological station, saying that Bermuda owed him a deep debt of gratitude for his efforts and insistence in helping to bring the station to its present stage.

Dr. Mark, who was warmly greeted on rising to speak, was obviously overjoyed that his dream of so many years had come true, and we give his summary of the history of the station.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: My first impulse is to call you—as many of you long have been—my dear friends.

It is a great pleasure to meet you collectively and to express my keen appreciation of what you have done, both officially and unofficially, to further the interests of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research.

¹ *J. Bacteriology*, 22: 103-114, 1931.