of the sex-glands to changes of light—the factors directly concerned in causing the changes observed by Professors Rowan and Bissonnette.

T. HUME BISSONNETTE
LABORATORY OF ANIMAL NUTRITION,
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE,
CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

PROFESSOR TROLAND AND DR. KUNZ

THE multifarious activities of such men as Professor Leonard Thompson Troland and Dr. George F. Kunz, both of whom died during the early part of this summer, makes it impossible for a biographical note to refer to all their widely scattered activities. Perhaps you can find space for this brief additional tribute.

Dr. Troland published several important papers on the nature of life and life processes, *viz.*: "The Chemical Origin and Regulation of Life," *Monist,* January, 1914; "The Enzyme Theory of Life," *Cleveland Medical Journal,* 15, 377–389 (1916); "Biological Enigmas and the Theory of Enzyme Action," *Am. Naturalist,* 51, 321–350 (1917). Extensive quotations from these papers are given in a paper by Alexander and Bridges in "Colloid Chemistry, Theoretical and Applied," Vol. II (Biology and Medicine), pp. 18–21. These papers of Troland are well worth the consideration of all biologists.

Dr. Kunz, among his many other social and scientific activities, was deeply interested in chemistry, and at the time of his death was president of the American section of the Société de Chimie Industrielle. He had long been collecting for the American Museum of Natural History specimens of the known chemical elements, and had himself contributed to the nearly complete collection many specimens of historic interest, *e.g.,* part of the rare atmospheric gases first isolated by Sir William Ramsay. On June 28, the day before his death, Dr. Kunz discussed with me matters concerning the American section, and evinced a keen interest in current scientific matters and affairs.

JEROME ALEXANDER

SOME NEW AGAR DIGESTING BACTERIA

DURING the course of some studies on the bacteria responsible for changes brought about in an experimental trickling filter receiving a creamery waste, a number of organisms were encountered which were distinctive in that they digested the agar medium upon which they were grown. A study of these cultures was undertaken in hopes that it might throw some light upon their rôle in the purification process, as well as upon their ability to digest agar.

These cultures were divided into three distinct groups, and since a survey of the literature showed that they had not been previously described, they are therefore described as new species.

Achromobacter pastinator nov. sp: gram negative, non-spore-forming, short rod; motile by means of peritrichous flagella. Colonies small, almost colorless and producing definite liquefaction of agar media. The colonies sink into cup-like depressions in the agar. Acidity is not produced from carbohydrates, although many such compounds are utilized as carbon sources, as shown by chemical analyses.

Pseudomonas lacunogenes nov. sp: gram negative, non-spore-forming, short rod; motile by means of a single polar flagellum. Colonies orange yellow, slightly raised, smooth, butyrous and causing slight depressions in the surface of agar media. No definite liquefaction takes place, although the agar is softened. Acid is rarely produced from carbohydrates, although chemical analyses indicate that many of these compounds are utilized. This organism also utilizes such nitrogen compounds as cystein, asparagin, aspartic acid, tyrosine, alanine, glutaminic acid, ammonium succinate and peptone as sources of both carbon and nitrogen. It also utilizes ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride and ammonium phosphate as sources of nitrogen, when dextrose is present.

Pseudomonas segne nov. sp: gram negative, non-spore-forming, short rod; motile by means of a single polar flagellum. Colonies orange yellow, slightly raised, smooth, butyrous and causing slight depressions in the surface of agar media. No definite liquefaction takes place, although the agar is softened.

The action of this organism on carbohydrates is identical with that of *Ps. lacunogenes.* There is, however, a marked difference between these two organisms in their ability to utilize nitrogen compounds, *Ps. segne* being unable to utilize any of the nitrogen compounds listed under *Ps.* lacunogenes as a nitrogen source except peptone.

A full description of the morphology and physiology of these organisms will be published elsewhere.

HARRY E. GORESLINE
IOWA STATE COLLEGE

A NEW YELLOW PEROMYSCUS

THE discovery of a new coat color mutation in mammals is sufficiently uncommon to justify its announcement as a special event. We take some pride, therefore, even if we deserve little credit for the production, in making public the discovery of a new dilute yellow (or dilute brown) *Peromyscus.*

The mouse appeared first as a segregant, in a litter of four, in a stock of *Peromyscus maniculatus gambeli,* which was being used in a joint genetic investigation of white spotting in this species. Subsequently, three other similar yellows appeared, all of them