# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1932 No. 1970 Vol. 76 Some New Aspects of Plant Nutrition: Dr. R. W. and A. L. STAHL. A Knockdown "Berlese Fun-The Rise of Genetics. II: Professor T. H. Morgan 285 Special Articles: The Administration of Ferrous Iodide and Linoleic Obituary: Ralph Hoffmann: E. H. Recent Deaths ...... 288 Acid to Rats Deprived of Vitamin A: Drs. Lu-CILLE L. REED, LAFAYETTE B. MENDEL and HUBERT Scientific Events: BRADFORD VICKERY. Effect of Age and Sex on The David Dunlap Observatory; New Building for Resistance of Daphnids to Mercuric Chloride: Pro-Entomology at the University of California; The FESSOR JOHN BREUKELMAN ..... Junior Science Clubs Section of the American Institute; The Los Angeles Meeting of the American Mathematical Society ..... Scientific Notes and News ..... Discussion: The Fundamental Particles: Professor R. M. SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advance-LANGER. Light a Factor in Rancidity: DR. ment of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and pub-GEORGE E. HOLM and GEORGE R. GREENBANK. An lished every Friday by Unusual Cotton Plant: Professor A. F. Kidder. A Meteor in Wisconsin: Professor G. E. Culver 294 THE SCIENCE PRESS New York City: Grand Central Terminal Doctorates Conferred in the Sciences by American Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y. Universities, 1931-1932: Dr. Clarence J. West and CALLIE HULL .... Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts. SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C. Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods: Relation of Anatomy and Method of Extraction to Quality of Satsuma Orange Juice: Drs. Hamil-TON P. TRAUB, LEONARD W. GADDUM, A. F. CAMP

## SOME NEW ASPECTS OF PLANT NUTRITION

By Dr. R. W. THATCHER

PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE

For many years I have been keenly interested in the biochemistry of plant life. My interest in this field was first aroused when I first learned of the antithetical but complementary relationships of plant and animal life as shown by the so-called "cycles" of life, such as the "carbon cycle," the "nitrogen cycle," etc., in which plants take from and restore to the atmosphere or soil the elements which are given to and withdrawn from these same ultimate sources of supply by the processes of animal life. This led to a further interest in the biochemical processes and exchanges of energy in syntheses by plants and in metabolism by animals. Soon it became apparent to me that while these processes are generally antithetical in direction and final results, the route along which they travel and the conditions which determine their velocities are strikingly similar.

For example, the pigments which are associated with the rate, and in a sense the regulators of, energy

changes in plant and animal growth, namely, haemoglobin and chlorophyl, respectively, were shown to be strikingly similar in chemical constitution, being made up of the same pyrrol units linked together in the same general relationships, the only essential difference being in the metallic element through which the linkage occurs, namely, iron in haemoglobin and magnesium in chlorophyl. Moreover, within the past two or three years, it has been shown, as will be discussed later in this paper, that the element copper has apparently the same relation to the production of chlorophyl in chlorotic plants that it has to the regeneration of haemoglobin in anemic animals.

Again, enzymes, or organic catalysts, once they were discovered and the nature and method of their action studied, showed remarkable similarities in the plant and the animal biochemical processes which they initiate or regulate. In fact, the reversibility of the reaction which is accelerated by a particular enzyme

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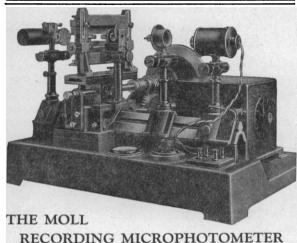
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