This preference could hardly be a manifestation of ordinary heliotropism, because many of the white illuminations are much stronger in visible light than those which attract the insects.

One new set of visitors came this year—a great influx of brown moths. Thus far the green bugs have not arrived.

If the insects were mainly of varieties normally attracted by bright-colored flowers, one might assume that the superior attraction rested in the color; but this is not the case, with the exception of the moths.

The idea then occurs that possibly neon lights may emanate invisible rays which connect with the antennae of various insects and pull them to its source. If this be true and the radiations can be identified and suitable projectors manufactured, this might be a solution to the problem of crop pest eradication. It may be that different vibrations attract different species, but the evidence seems to indicate that neon lights give off rays which strongly attract insects of widely different types and that this attraction is many times more powerful than that produced by white light.

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COLOR SYSTEMS

THE Ridgway Colors and Nomenclature have been found quite practical for years by biologists, in particular mycologists and ornithologists, for the description of color and at the present time there are many references to Ridgway in the literature. However, an improved system is desirable as the Ridgway colors alter with age and are not reproducible.

Time and the work of many investigators has now shown that the Munsell Color System and notation of Professor A. H. Munsell is well established.[1,2] While the chips of the Munsell Color Book are not absolutely permanent, they are sufficiently stable to withstand normal usage, and a conversion table has now been published which gives the Munsell colors in terms of the ICI (1931) *xy* coordinate specification system which is based on absolute standards.

The large number of Ridgway color chips have simplified comparison and identification of colors. Although the number of Munsell colors is smaller the arrangement, even in the abridged book of color, makes possible close estimation. The alternative color arrangements of the standard book serve for closer checking.

Field work is facilitated, since the Munsell system is based on three distinct dimensions: hue, gray value and saturation (chroma). This makes possible the broad description of colors without comparison with standards, for the observer can readily indicate the limits of color range when he is doubtful.

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REPRINTS FOR EUROPEAN LABORATORIES

IN SCIENCE for November 7, Robert B. Dean suggests that since European laboratories are unable to obtain American or British scientific journals, reprints be sent by American scientists instead. Such reprints may reach certain laboratories, but not all. Since November, 1940, reprints and personal letters addressed to various scientists in occupied France have uniformly been returned with the notation that service has been suspended. Recently letters to Barcelona have been returned the same way. Reprints and correspondence seem to reach Belgium, Holland and the Scandinavian countries satisfactorily, and also Switzerland. Nothing, however, seems to get into or out of what was Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia or Greece. There seems little use in wasting funds on shipments of reprints to these portions of Europe if the material is returned due to what appears to be a Nazi policy of intellectual as well as physical starvation.

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QUOTATIONS

A METONIC SPAN IN THE WORK OF THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION

METON was an Athenian astronomer of the fifth century B.C., remembered chiefly because of his division of time into nineteen-year periods. The writer, it must be confessed, first learned of his existence at the recent installation of Dr. John W. Nason as president of Swarthmore College through reference to the Metonic span of nineteen years' service by the retiring president, Dr. Frank Aydelotte. Since his own final report must of necessity deal rather with past experience than with future plans, and since the day of his retirement in November, 1941, also brings to a close a Metonic span in the service of the Carnegie Corporation, the writer has adopted the term as the subtitle of the concluding section of this report.

[1] See the five papers on the Munsell color system and bibliographies as published in *Jour. Opt. Soc. Amer.*: 573–645; December, 1940.

[2] J. J. Glenn and James T. Killian, *Jour. Opt. Soc. Amer.*: 609–616; 1940.