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<i>New Hybrids from Incompatible Crosses in Datura through Culture of Excised Embryos on Malt Media</i> : DR. ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE and SOPHIE SATINA	331
<i>Using Electrons for Microanalysis</i> : DR. V. K. ZWORYKIN	334
Obituary: <i>William Emerson Ritter: Naturalist and Philosopher</i> : DR. FRANCIS B. SUMNER. <i>Deaths and Memorials</i>	335
Scientific Events: <i>A Government Testing Laboratory in South Africa; The American Mathematical Society; The Charles L. Mayer Awards; Grants of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences</i>	338
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	339
Discussion: <i>Safety of Mechanical Resuscitation Apparatus: COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL THERAPY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. The Occurrence of a Tetraploid and Two Triploid Apple Seedlings in Progenies of Diploid Parents</i> : DR. JOHN EINSET. <i>The Correct Generic Name for the Sand Fly</i> : WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR. <i>The Longevity of the Eminent</i> : DR. CLARENCE A. MILLS	343
Scientific Books: <i>Plant Geography</i> : PROFESSOR R. RUGGLES GATES. <i>Organic Chemistry of Sulphur</i> : PROFESSOR MARSTON T. BOGERT. <i>Industrial Chemistry</i> : DR. WILLIAM D. TURNER. <i>Physical Biochemistry</i> : DR. DAVID I. HITCHCOCK	346
Special Articles: <i>Suppression of Growth of the Brown-Pearce Tumor by a Specific Antibody</i> : DR. JOHN G. KIDD. <i>A Confirmation of the Presence of Pancreozymin in the Duodenal Mucosa</i> : DR. A. C. IVY and OTHERS. <i>Chlorellin an Antibacterial Substance from Chlorella</i> : FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION	348
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i> <i>New Indicators to Replace Litmus in Milk</i> : JOHN A. ULRICH	352
<i>Science News</i>	10

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NEW HYBRIDS FROM INCOMPATIBLE CROSSES IN DATURA THROUGH CULTURE OF EXCISED EMBRYOS ON MALT MEDIA¹

By ALBERT F. BLAKESLEE and SOPHIE SATINA

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INCREASINGLY of recent years it is becoming possible to control the activities of the living plant by chemical treatment. The success in doubling chromosomal numbers with colchicine and other stimuli naturally led to an attempt to halve the chromosomal number by some similarly simple treatment. The fact that over two hundred haploids ($1n$) had turned up spontaneously in our cultures of *Daturas* since 1921 showed that the plant is capable of producing individuals with half the normal $2n$ chromosomal com-

plement. Preliminary attempts to induce the production of $1n$ offspring by treating the unfertilized egg cells with a wide series of stimuli were entirely unsuccessful. In the summer of 1940 the cooperation of Drs. J. van Overbeek and Marie Conklin was secured in a more intensive attack on the problem. Something was learned about the processes involved in embryo development,² but none of the stimuli tested induced the production of $1n$ embryos. In the summer of 1941 they attacked the problem from a different standpoint in order to learn more about the factors involved in embryo development and attempted to dig out the young embryos and cultivate them on artificial media. The older embryos could be thus readily cultivated, but the smaller ones (under 0.5 mm in *D.*

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²J. van Overbeek, M. E. Conklin and A. F. Blakeslee, *Am. Jour. Bot.*, 28: 647-656, 1941.

sent crude extracts. Considerable work will be required to determine fully the range of biological activity and the chemical nature of the active principle. In view of the low and variable yields thus far obtained it is apparent that further work is necessary to determine the optimum conditions for the accumulation and extraction of chlorellin. The cell mass may prove to be a valuable source of the active principle. These investigations are progressing.

Chlorellin is unique in the constantly growing list of antibiotics which have been reported in the literature, because, since it is derived from an autotrophic organism, its production does not entail the use of expensive and troublesome organic culture media, only inorganic salts, carbon dioxide and light being required.

These investigations have been carried out as a co-operative project by staff members of the College of Pharmacy of the University of California and of the Division of Plant Biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

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SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

NEW INDICATORS TO REPLACE LITMUS IN MILK

THE use of litmus milk has gained wide popularity in bacteriological procedures because of the large number of biochemical reactions that can be determined with one inoculation. It has been our experience to find it very difficult to duplicate the density of the color. This may be due to the fact that litmus is not a single substance but a mixture which varies with the lichen and preparation used.

A search for a single compound which would serve both as a pH indicator and an E_h (oxidation-reduction) indicator in the proper ranges proved disappointing. A combination of indicators was decided upon, and those embodying the most desirable properties both alone and in combination were Chlor Phenol Red (or Brom Phenol Red) for the pH indicator and Methylene Blue for the E_h indicator.

Chlor Phenol Red is a member of the sulfonphthalein dyes which are widely used in bacteriological media. The pH range is from 5.2 to 6.8. Its yellow color on the acid side and red color on the basic side does not mask the reactions of the Methylene Blue. A stock solution is prepared by dissolving 0.1 gram in 10 cc of absolute alcohol.

The Methylene Blue stock solution is prepared by dissolving 0.625 grams (total dye concentration 84 per cent.) in 250 ml of distilled water. The stock solutions are kept in well-stoppered light-tight bottles.

The formula for the preparation of the milk is as follows:

Dry milk powder	90 grams
Chlor Phenol Red (stock solution)	1 ml
Methylene Blue (stock solution)	2 ml
Water	make up to 1 liter

The milk is then sterilized by the fractional method

or autoclaved at 15 pounds for 15 minutes. The color of the milk changes to a light pink when strongly heated, but the original color returns as the milk cools.

Autoclaved milk requires a somewhat longer time for acid coagulation, but this is foretold by the very rapid reduction of Methylene Blue in this reaction.

The color changes in the milk as compared with Ridgeway's Color Standards (1912) are summarized as follows:

Uninoculated	Pale Glaucaous Green
Slightly acid	Yellowish Glaucaous
Acid with reduction	Ivory Yellow
Alkaline	Pale Russian Blue
Alkaline with reduction	Pale Pinkish Cinnamon
Alkaline peptonization	Clear Transparent Red

Inoculation of organisms of known biochemical character readily overcomes confusion in transposing the same reactions found on litmus milk.

This medium has been successfully used in a number of beginning and advanced classes in bacteriology. Students using milk for the first time have no difficulty in determining the reactions which have taken place.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

- ABRAMS, LEROY. *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*. Volume II. *Buckwheats to Kramerias*. Illustrated. Pp. viii + 635. Stanford University Press. \$7.50.
- WEIDENREICH, FRANZ. *The Skull of Sinanthropus Pekinensis; A Comparative Study on a Primitive Hominid Skull*. Illustrated. Pp. xxi + 484. Published by the Geological Survey of China. For sale at the office of G. E. Stechert and Company.

**WILEY**

NEW WILEY BOOKS

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By RALPH S. BATES, *formerly of the History Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.*

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Approx. 264 pages; 5½ by 8½; Probable price, \$3.50

BASIC MATHEMATICS FOR ENGINEERS

By PAUL G. ANDRES, *Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology*; HUGH J. MISER, *Lecturer in Mathematics, Lawrence College*; and HAIM REINGOLD, *Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Illinois Institute of Technology.*

Basic algebra, analytic geometry, and trigonometry, for students of science and engineering. Two introductory chapters on differential and integral calculus are included. Constant use is made of the slide rule and of graphical methods and representations. The book is distinguished for its broad scope and its clear, complete explanations and discussions. For refresher purposes, the basic geometric principles and formulas are given in an appendix. *Ready in May.*

726 pages; 5½ by 8½; \$4.00

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By CHARLES P. SHILLABER.

As far as we know the most comprehensive treatment of the subject in any language. A large part of the content is devoted to the actual procedures to be followed, with explanations of how to obtain the best results on various kinds of subject matter. The book covers the adjustments and various techniques relating to the microscope and the illuminating system; the use of sensitive material; and the preparation of the specimen. *Ready in May.*

Approx. 726 pages; 5½ by 8½; Probable price, \$7.50

ORGANIC REACTIONS, Volume II

ROGER ADAMS, *University of Illinois, Editor-in-Chief.*

Like Volume I (1942, \$4.00), this volume presents, from the preparative viewpoint, critical discussions of widely-used organic reactions. It covers: The Claisen rearrangement; the preparation of aliphatic fluorine compounds; the Cannizzaro reaction; the formation of cyclic ketones by intramolecular acylation; reduction with aluminum alkoxides (the Meerwein-Ponndorf-Verley reduction); the preparation of unsymmetrical biaryls by the diazo reaction and the nitrosoacetylamine reaction; replacement of the aromatic primary amino group by hydrogen; periodic acid oxidation; the resolution of alcohols; and the preparation of aromatic arsonic and arsinic acids by the Bart, Bechamp, and Rosenmund reactions.

461 pages; 6 by 9; \$4.50

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