

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1901.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE DIGNITY OF CHEMISTRY.*

CHEMISTRY as a profession may be said to have completed its hundredth year, and we have met to-night to celebrate the quarto-centennial of chemical organization in America.

In our democratic country, all attempts to create a class or caste should be discouraged, especially if the attempt be made to endow the class with unusual or special privileges. We have no place for an hereditary or purchasable aristocracy, but in the function of the civic body there must be specialization, and those individuals who by choice or fortuitous incident devote themselves to special duties are brought together by occupation, by congeniality and by desire for mutual helpfulness and improvement. In this mutual attraction we find the genesis of all trade and professional organization. The aggregate is always stronger than the segregate. This unity of purpose and this conformity of effort become reprehensible only when autocratic, imperative and insolent. The assumption of superior virtues, the assertion of peculiar privileges and the interference with the rights of others are never to be advocated nor condoned.

* An address delivered before the American Chemical Society, April 12, 1901, on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Society.

It is in the instructor's manual, likewise, that the spirit of the author's laboratory methods comes more clearly to the foreground. The presentation is more intimate, the descriptions more comprehensive, and the insight into the training which the course is intended to give more manifest. The genial set of instructions headed 'How to Fail in Laboratory Work,' might serve a good purpose if prominently exhibited in the laboratory. But the main point to be noted is the thorough appreciation of the fact that the psychological experiment carries with it its own conditions and peculiarities; that in becoming a 'subject' the individual retains all his peculiarities; and that these must be dealt with by tact and resource. The difference between good and bad observation upon mental matters depends upon this, almost equally with the acquaintance with method and technique. Both for the method and the matter, these volumes and the two to follow must be valued as amongst the most important of recent contributions to the furtherance of the aims of experimental psychology.

JOSEPH JASTROW.

Peach Leaf Curl: Its Nature and Treatment. By NEWTON B. PIERCE, in charge Pacific Coast Laboratory, Santa Anna, California. Bulletin No. 20, Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Washington, Government Printing Office. 1900. Pages 1-204; plates I.-XXX.

A carefully detailed and exhaustive account of the geographical distribution, history, horticulture, botany and pathology of this destructive disease, and of experiments with the various remedies, methods and appliances for treating it. The most important of the conclusions is that very large percentages of the injuries due to the parasitic fungus *Exoascus deformans* are not caused by the renewed growth of perennial mycelium, but are the result of new infections occurring in early spring, and thus preventable by spraying the still unopened buds with Bordeaux mixture or other fungicides. Previous failures with such treatments are explained by the fact that the remedy was applied after the pathogenic organism had hidden itself in the tissues of its host.

As the annual losses from leaf curl in the United States are estimated at \$3,000,000, the determination of these simple points is of great economic importance, and also of the widest interest, since this disease, unlike the yellows, extends to all regions where the peach is cultivated.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Select Methods of Food Analysis. HENRY LEFFMANN and WILLIAM BEAM. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1901. Pp. viii + 383. \$2.50.

L'évolution du pigment. G. BOHN. Paris, G. Carré and C. Naud. 1901. Pp. 96. 2 fr.

Towers and Tanks for Water Works. J. N. HAZLEHURST. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall. 1901. Pp. ix + 126.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

A REGULAR meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Columbia University, New York City, on Saturday, April 27, 1901. About thirty-five persons attended the two sessions. Vice-President Thomas S. Fiske occupied the chair. The following persons were elected to membership: Mr. C. W. McG. Black, Yale University; Dr. S. E. Slocum, University of Cincinnati. Two applications for membership were received.

To relieve the increasing burden of administration, the office of Assistant Secretary was created and filled by the appointment of Dr. Edward Kasner, to serve until February, 1902.

The library of the Society, which at present consists mainly of some five hundred unbound volumes of journals received as exchanges, is about to be deposited in the library of Columbia University, under an agreement by which the University undertakes to bind, catalogue and care for the books now on hand and all future additions, and to make them easily accessible to the members of the Society. Arrangements will be made by which the books may be temporarily loaned to members living at a distance. The library is to be kept as a separate collection, duplicating as far as may be the general University library, and aiming to become as complete as possible in itself. The title to the books remains in the Society, which reserves