

A generic name which is the same as that of an explicitly included species (or a cited post-Linnæan synonym of such species) takes that species as its type regardless of subsequent elimination.

Illustrations.

Cuvier in 1800 ('Leçons d'Anat. Comp.,' I., tabl. 1) proposed the generic name *Mephitis* for the American skunks and mentioned two species, *mephitis* and *putorius*. Consequently the type of *Mephitis* would be *Mephitis mephitis* (Schreber).

Bechstein in 1803 ('Orn. Taschenb. Deutschl.,' p. 282) proposed the genus *Totanus*, to which he referred the following species of birds: *maculatus*, *calidris*, *fuscus*, *natans*, *limosa*, *glottis*, *ogocephalus*, *leucophæus*, *lapponicus*, *gregarius* and *stagnatilis*. He quotes *Scolopax totanus* Linnæus as a synonym of *Totanus maculatus*; it would therefore be regarded as the type.

Cuvier in 1817 ('Regne Animal,' II., p. 269) proposed the name *Smaris* for a genus of fishes and mentioned two species, *mæna* and *smaris*, of which the latter would become the type.

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SHORTER ARTICLES.

THE PREVENTION OF MOLDS ON CIGARS.

In January of the past winter a prominent cigar manufacturer brought to the attention of the Office of Vegetable Pathological and Physiological Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, the fact that the occurrence of molds on cigars forms one of the greatest problems with which the tobacco manufacturer has to deal, and the loss in profits and in reputation from this cause alone is one of the most serious known to the manufacturer.

The undersigned was detailed to this investigation, and laboratory experiments were promptly begun. The molds found on the cigars were identified by Mrs. Flora W. Patterson, mycologist, as *Aspergillus candidus* Link and *Penicillium glaucum* Link. Preliminary tests showed promptly that these molds would not grow under laboratory conditions on untreated wrapper leaf, but when a thin film of tragacanth paste, such as is used in cigar factories for fastening the wrapper in place, was applied to the leaf the molds flourished. Whether to disinfect the wrapper leaf or the paste was a question answered in favor of the latter method. The question of choosing some substance which should be lacking in odor, taste and harmful properties, was decided in favor of boracic acid. A large number of compounds was tested, but the number of those efficient under the conditions here prescribed was extremely limited. Boracic acid is well known as a perfectly harmless antiseptic agent, a fact which further recommended it. Laboratory tests showed that a saturated solution of boracic acid used in making up the tragacanth paste, instead of water, sterilized the paste. A method of operation adapted to factory purposes, based on this laboratory information, was transmitted to the factory from which the complaint first emanated. After a six-weeks' test, under the most varying conditions in factory practice, the superintendent writes: "I am happy to state that I sincerely believe that you have solved the trouble of the mold forming on the heads of cigars at our factory, as since I have been using the boracic acid in the proportion prescribed we have no trouble with the mold on the cigars. I thought that possibly after they had been stored some time the mold might appear, but I am pleased to say that our tests in every way and under all conditions show that the mold will not appear after using the boracic acid in the paste. I would add that as boracic acid is cheap, we now buy it by the barrel."

Since the cost involved in this treatment is practically nothing, and the additional labor involved in the application is also so slight as

to be practically *nil*, we may hope that perhaps this difficulty is eliminated.

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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE Graduate School of Agriculture, the first of its kind in the United States, began a four weeks' session at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, July 7. About 70 students from 25 States are in attendance, of whom nearly 50 are officers of agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The faculty consists of about 30 leading teachers and investigators in agricultural science. Advanced courses are given in agronomy, breeding of plants and animals, zootechny and dairying. At the inaugural exercises held on the evening of July 7 addresses were delivered by Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture; Hon. Wm. M. Liggett, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota; Dr. H. C. White, president of Georgia State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts; Dr. A. C. True, director of U. S. Office of Experiment Stations and dean of the Graduate School of Agriculture; and President W. O. Thompson, of Ohio State University. In his address explaining the objects and aims of this school the dean showed that the rapid development of agricultural education and research in this country in recent years had created a demand for well-trained teachers and investigators which the agricultural colleges as at present organized could not meet. Especially had the latest development in the direction of the division of the general subject of agriculture into specialties created a necessity for university instruction in agriculture. "One aim of this graduate school is to provide a certain measure of this advanced and special instruction and thereby to illustrate some of the lines along which our universities need to establish advanced courses of instruction in agricultural specialties." The school may also serve a useful purpose in bringing to its students up-to-date information on various agricultural subjects and in pointing out ways in which the methods of teaching and investi-

gating agricultural subjects may be improved, and the apparatus and illustrative material for instruction and research in these subjects may be increased in variety and effectiveness. The school serves to solidify and amplify the organization of agricultural education and research on the basis of agriculture itself, considered as both a science and an art. "The signs all indicate," said Dr. True, "that we are on the edge of a widespread movement to organize agricultural education in this country on a much broader basis in order that it may permeate the mass of our rural population. The people are looking to the agricultural colleges to lead in this movement. In a large way it may be said that the hoped-for leaders in this new enterprise are here assembled. Surely our councils will have been futile if they do not give an impetus and direction to the plans for popular agricultural education now being formulated. The people are already offering our higher institutions for agricultural education and research relatively large sums of money and are evidently intending to give them more. If we can find a way here to make the work of our agricultural colleges, experiment stations and Department of Agriculture in any respects more effective and satisfactory, we shall surely reap ample reward in increased material support for our instruction and researches and stronger popular confidence in our usefulness as instruments of agricultural advancement."

Considering the character of the faculty and students of this school important results may be expected from the inauguration of this new enterprise in agricultural education.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Albert medal of the Society of Arts, London, has for the present year been awarded to Professor Alexander Graham Bell, for his invention of the telephone.

PRESIDENT ELIOT, of Harvard University, was elected president of the National Educational Association at the recent Minneapolis meeting.

THE eminent astronomer, Professor Giovanni Schiaparelli, has been elected an associ-