

of the two degenerate digits. But I think the evidence is not sufficiently conclusive to warrant his interpretation. The skeleton which I have examined is more than two thirds complete, much crushed, and but few of the phalanges are articulated. It seems quite possible to interpret the phalangeal formula in conformity with other Trachodont skeletons in which the phalanges, being not only fully articulated but enclosed within the web of the skin, are not open to any possibility of error.

In Plate II. showing what Mr. Lambe considers the natural position of the elements the terminal hoof of IV. is evidently II.³ and V.² is not a terminal as I have determined by examination.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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AGRO-DOGMATOLOGY

IN SCIENCE of October 3, 1913, there appears under the title "The Bread Supply" a veritable vegetable cell containing a *nucleus* in the form of a quotation from an address by Professor Bolley; some *cytoplasm* of somewhat alkaline reaction provided by Professor Hopkins; *chromatophores* for which various experiments are called upon to furnish local color; *metaplasm* containing a conglomeration of non-essentials, incidentals and chemical dogma; scarcely enough juice to fill even a small *tonoplast*; an impermeable *ectoplasm*—the whole cell suffering from extreme plasmolysis resulting from the toxic fumes arising from very decadent notions of "plant food."

Professor Hopkins refers with "deep respect" to "the science of biochemistry, as the chief means of making plant food available." With such a conception of its nature it would be better to refer to biochemistry with reverence—an attitude of mind often assumed towards the unknown. The biochemist and plant physiologist might well say to Professor Hopkins, as did the Lord to Moses, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

We are told that Jensen devised a method for "the destruction of fungous diseases some-

times carried in seed grain." I do recall that Professor Jensen developed the so-called "hot water" method for the destruction of the spores of certain fungi known to cause diseases of certain cereals. When such simple facts regarding plant pathology are available in even our elementary text-books it is evident that "no state in the union can afford . . . to have the minds of its farmers and land owners befogged in relation thereto."

In making analyses of commercial fertilizers, soils, ores and similar materials the "analytical chemist" still plays an important rôle; he may even assist in prolonging human life by detecting sodium benzoate in our canned tomatoes, but no one seriously expects him to fully comprehend, even "two or three centuries after its discovery," the relation of the plant to its environment. In "belittling" the work of the analytical chemist in this connection even a hundred columns of words are not so effective as a comparison with the actual achievements of the biochemist and the plant physiologist.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series. Edited by DRs. SMITH ELY JELLIFFE and WM. A. WHITE. Published by the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing Company, New York.

This series, it is announced, "will consist of short monographs, translations and minor text-books." To judge by the rapidity with which the successive numbers have appeared and by the promptness with which the editions have become exhausted, the undertaking is certainly well conceived. The first 15 numbers include White's excellent "Outlines of Psychiatry," a condensed text-book of 300 pages; "Mental Mechanisms" by the same author; Franz's "Handbook of Mental Examination Methods," and two other original papers, the remaining numbers being translations. Of these, one of the most important is Kraepelin's study of "General Paresis." There are