metric standards, but this could happen slowly. Now that so much is said of scientific management, have the owners of large plants ever taken the trouble to estimate the time spent by their computers on account of our adherence to an archaic system? While abroad, I bought me a carpenter's rule in the metric system, and use this in my shop except when I have to use machinery built on the British system. I make fewer mistakes, and have far less difficulty in reading a metric rule than one graduated to sixteenths of an inch.

The metric system has the advantage in classes in physics that we can spend most of our time on physics, and comparatively little on arithmetic, and perhaps our pupils may help to demand the metric system as the universal standard.

PAUL F. GAEHR

PSYLLIDÆ WINTERING ON CONIFERS ABOUT WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE fact that certain Psyllidæ spend the winter upon conifers is well known,[1] but little has been put on record concerning this habit in the United States. In the vicinity of Washington five species of Psyllids abundantly winter on *Pinus virginiana*. I have more than once taken all five on the same day. On a bright day they are very active, hopping quite as vigorously as in summer. The list includes *Livia maculipennis* Fitch, *L. vernalis* Fitch, *Aphalara calthæ* Linn., *Trioza salicis* Mally, and *T. tripunctata* Fitch. The true food plant or host on which these species breed in no case is pine, the conifer being used only as an alternate food plant and winter shelter. The habit of resorting to conifers is not restricted to the cold season, however, as the records show. *Livia vernalis* has been taken on pine in June, July and September, also, *Aphalara calthæ* in April, and *Trioza tripunctata* in April, May and June.

These Psyllids occur on *Pinus tæda* also, and to some extent on *Juniperus virginiana*. Another species of Psyllid—*Pachypsylla cmamma* Riley—occurs from October to February at least upon juniper and hemlock.

Wintering specimens of two of these species of Psyllidæ differ in appearance from the summer forms. In *Aphalara calthæ* the colors are more pronounced in winter specimens, and in *Trioza salicis* many individuals taken at this season are notably more pruinose than the summer form.

Besides psyllids, a variety of other insects resort to pines in winter. They include leafhoppers of the genera *Empoasca, Erythroneura, Balclutha,* and *Idiocerus,* the cercopid, *Clastoptera,* and the Heteroptera, *Lygus pratensis* Linn., and *Piesma cinerea* Say. *Aradus cinnamomeus* Panz. occurs on these trees throughout the year. The assemblage of winter guests on pine includes also small sawflies, and other hymenoptera, numerous diptera, especially Chironomidæ, and a few beetles and spiders. By beating conifers, scaling off bark, searching through fallen leaves, and sifting, I have made as numerous and varied a catch on many a winter's day, as I have on some days during the more favored season. I may mention that I sought in vain for Psyllids on pines in Maine in early March, getting only diptera and spiders.

W. L. MCATEE

[1] See especially Reuter, O. M., "Hemipteren-Fauna der Palaearktischen coniferen," 1908.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Medicine in China. By the China Medical Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation. New York, 1914.

This volume, containing 113 pages including the appendices, is a summary of the investigations of Chinese medicine by a commission appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation early in 1914. The commission consisted of President Judson, of the University of Chicago; Roger S. Greene, consul-general of the United States at Hankow; Dr. F. W. Peabody, of the Harvard Medical School, and George Baldwin McKibbin. The purpose of the commission was to study the medical schools, hospitals and dispensaries of China with reference to the needs of the country and the desirability of aiding these institutions financially or otherwise. The commission has produced a report which is not only informing, but is full of interest and written in non-technical language.

The statement of the committee that China