

varieties of wood and wood under various conditions.

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THE EFFECT OF MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS ON GROWTH AND REPRODUCTION

THE effect of adding various mineral supplements to a basal ration of 2 parts of yellow corn and 1 part of peanut meal was tested on albino rats. The basal ration is often used for the feeding of swine in the south.

The plan of feeding was as follows:

Lot 1—Basal ration alone	
Lot 2—Basal ration	99 per cent.
NaCl	1 per cent.
Lot 3—Basal ration	97.5 per cent.
NaCl	1.0 per cent.
CaCO ₃	1.5 per cent.
Lot 4—Basal ration	97.5 per cent.
NaCl	1.0 per cent.
Steamed bone meal	1.5 per cent.
Lot 5—Basal ration	97.5 per cent.
NaCl	1.0 per cent.
Acid phosphate	1.5 per cent.

EFFECT ON GROWTH

Lot 1 made very little growth. Lot 2 made gradual gains for a period of two to three months. This was followed by a decline in the weights of the males and approximate maintenance in the weights of the females.

The rate of growth in Lots 3, 4 and 5 was normal and was practically the same in all three lots during the first weeks of the experiment. The rats that received steamed bone meal, however, sustained their growth longer and reached a greater final weight on the average than those that received the CaCO₃ or the acid phosphate. The curves for the latter two lots were very similar.

EFFECT ON REPRODUCTION

The differences in reproduction were more striking than the differences in growth.

None of the females in Lots 1 and 2 showed signs of pregnancy.

In Lot 3 rearing of young was successful in the first litters of the second generation. Later litters did not grow so rapidly. The third generation was a failure.

Young were successfully raised in the fourth generation in Lot 4. The results in the third and fourth generations were not normal but were decidedly superior to those in any of the other groups.

Reproduction in Lot 5 was most disappointing in view of the fact that this group made about as good growth in the first generation as Lot 3. The females in Lot 5 littered fairly regularly, but the young were small, low in vitality and usually died within a few hours after birth.

Growth curves and analyses showing the ash content of the bodies of rats from each lot will be published later.

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ALABAMA EXPERIMENT STATION

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE FALL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE regular fall meeting of the executive committee of the council of the American Association was held at the Cosmos Club in Washington, on Sunday, October 12, with the following members present: Cattell, Humphreys, Livingston, Osborn, Ward. The following members were absent: Fairchild, Flexner, MacDougal, Miller, W. A. Noyes. In the absence of the chairman, the president of the association was elected chairman for the meeting. Three sessions were held, one in the forenoon, one in the afternoon and the third in the evening. A vote by mail has been taken among the absentee members on the items of business transacted at the meeting, this having been needed on account of the presence of only five members, six being required for a majority of the committee. The following items of business were transacted and have received the approval of more than a majority.

1. The election of Dr. F. G. Cottrell as chairman of Section C (Chemistry) was approved.

2. The permanent secretary's annual report on the affairs of the association was accepted. It will appear in *SCIENCE* in the near future.

3. The permanent secretary's annual financial report was accepted and ordered audited and then presented to the council.

4. The annual report of the assistant treasurer was accepted and ordered audited and then presented to the council.

5. It was voted that any funds appropriated for grants which shall not have been disbursed at the end of the fiscal year for which they were appropriated shall revert to the treasury as appropriable funds on October 1. It is, however, understood that this rule does not prejudice the possible transfer of any unused grant or any unused portion of a grant to the next fiscal year, providing this transfer be recommended by the Committee on Grants.