

Current Notes

Conducted by the Associate Editor

Mr. Emery A. Proctor, Gipsy and Brown-Tail Moth Investigations, Bureau of Entomology, died December 11, 1916.

According to *Science*, Dr. B. R. Poppius, the Finnish entomologist, died November 27, 1916, at the age of forty years.

Dr. L. O. Howard gave a lecture, February 1, before the Washington Academy of Sciences, on "The Carriage of Disease by Insects."

Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, for many years assistant keeper of the British Museum, died on February 4, at the age of seventy-three years.

Recent resignations from the Bureau of Entomology are as follows: Oswald D. Ingall and Charles F. Guptill, Gipsy and Brown-Tail Moth Investigations.

Professor W. C. O'Kane, Durham, N. H., attended the annual meeting of the New England Nurserymen's Association at Hotel Taft, New Haven, Conn., January 30-31.

Dr. Edith M. Patch, entomologist, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Me.; Prof. George A. Dean, state entomologist, Manhattan, Kan.; Prof. Georges Maheu, provincial entomologist, Quebec, Can., visited the Bureau of Entomology during February.

During the month of January the following were visitors at the Bureau of Entomology: C. Gordon Hewitt, Ottawa, Can.; G. A. Dean, Manhattan, Kan.; E. D. Ball, Madison, Wis.; and Prof. James G. Sanders, Harrisburg, Pa.

According to *Science*, the governor of Minnesota has recommended to the legislature that \$25,000 be appropriated for the use of the state entomologist in combating the white-pine blister rust in Minnesota.

Dr. Alvah H. Peterson, whose New Jersey appointment was noted in the February issue of the *JOURNAL*, is assistant entomologist of the New Jersey Agricultural College Experiment Station, and instructor in Entomology in Rutgers College.

Mr. P. B. Wiltberger has been appointed instructor in entomology at the Michigan Agricultural College and assistant entomologist of the Station *vice* G. C. Woodin resigned, the appointment to take effect April 1.

Recent appointments to the Bureau of Entomology are as follows: Carl F. W. Muesbeck, scientific assistant, Gipsy Moth Parasite Laboratory, Melrose Highlands, Mass; J. E. Graf, Truck Crop and Stored Product Insect Investigations, Plant City, Fla.

Dr. Marcus T. Smulyan, formerly connected with the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed to the position of Specialist in Insects and Carriers of Insect Diseases, Bureau of Entomology, and assigned to duty at the Gipsy Moth Laboratory, Melrose Highlands, Mass.

The offices of the Gipsy and Brown-Tail Moth Investigations, Bureau of Entomology, were moved in December from 43 Tremont Street, Boston, to 964 Main Street,

The Index of American Economic Entomology by Dr. Nathan Banks is ready for distribution. Orders may be placed with A. F. Burgess, Melrose Highlands, Mass. See advertisement for rates.

Melrose Highlands, near the laboratory. The Inspection and Quarantine Service still continues its office at the Boston address.

Professor W. C. O'Kane, Durham, N. H., recently published a new book, entitled, "Jim and Peggy at Meadowbrook Farm." Its purpose is to convey to city children a picture of everyday farm life; it is profusely illustrated with New Hampshire scenes, and is published by the Macmillan Company.

Mr. Edmund Baynes Reed, one of the pioneer entomologists of Canada, died at Victoria, B. C., November 18, 1916, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. Mr. Reed was interested in both systematic and economic entomology, and was one of the original members of the Entomological Society of Ontario when it started in 1863.

Dr. E. F. Phillips, Bureau of Entomology, attended the following meetings during the months of January and February: Kentucky State Beekeepers' Association, Lexington, Ky., January 4; North Carolina Beekeepers' Association, Winston-Salem, N. C., January 11; Colorado Beekeepers' Association, Fort Collins, Col., January 18 and 19; National Beekeepers' Association, Madison, Wis., February 6-8.

The following transfers have been made in the Bureau of Entomology: D. A. H. McCray, from Bee Culture to Insects Affecting the Health of Man, to be established at New Orleans, La.; T. C. Barber, from Southern Field Crop Investigations to the Federal Horticultural Board, to be stationed at San Antonio, Tex.; W. H. Larrimer, Charleston, Mo., to West Lafayette, Ind.; Julian J. Culver, Gipsy Moth Laboratory, to Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations, stationed at Fort Valley, Ga.

Dr. L. O. Howard left Washington on the fifth of February, and visited the field station at Orlando, studying with Mr. W. W. Yothers the effects of the freeze of February 3 on the orange crop and the orange trees and on the insects of the orange. He also consulted with Mr. J. E. Graf, who has established a station at Plant City; and later visited Thomasville, Ga., where Mr. George D. Smith is studying cotton insects, stopping at Atlanta on his return to Washington for consultation with Mr. E. L. Worsham concerning coöperative work in Georgia.

The completion of the Carnegie Institution "Monograph of the Mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies" is in sight! The final proofs, including the index to the last volume, have been read, and the Institution believes that the final volume will be ready for distribution about April 15. It is of interest to note that the indices to Volumes 3 and 4 are combined in Volume 4, Volume 3 carrying no index. The pagination of Volumes 3 and 4 is continuous.

The Federal Horticultural Board has had a thorough survey made by its California collaborators, under the direction of Mr. Maskew, of the department's introduction gardens at Chico, Cal. This survey is an annual function and precedes the shipment of plant material from this garden. A similar survey is in progress in relation to the introduction gardens in Florida, notably the garden at Miami, and involves inspection of plants both for insect pests and fungous diseases. Various entomological and pathological experts of the Board, including members of the Board, were in attendance during the month of January at important conferences in New York over quarantine matters, particularly in relation to the blister rust, in connection with the entomological and pathological meetings held in that city, and with the International Forestry Congress held at Washington. At the latter Congress the chairman of the Board presented an address on the subject of losses occasioned by introduced insect pests and plant diseases. As a result of these conferences and of the needs of the plant quarantine service, an effort will be made to amend the Plant Quarantine Act, broad-

ening its powers in relation to domestic quarantines so that introduced pests of a fairly widespread character, like the blister rust and the alfalfa weevil, can be more effectively controlled.

Professor Raymond C. Osburn of the Connecticut College for Women, New London, Connecticut, has been elected head of the Department of Zoölogy and Entomology of the Ohio State University, his appointment to take effect July 1. He will assume the duties carried during the last nineteen years by Dr. Herbert Osborn, who was last year elected Research Professor and who will hereafter give his entire time to research work, including the direction of research work by graduate students, and, for the present, the directorship of the Lake Laboratory and of the Ohio Biological Survey. Dr. Osburn graduated from the Ohio State University in 1898, received the master's degree from the same institution in 1900 and the Ph. D. degree from Columbia in 1906. He has been connected as a teacher with the Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio; Fargo College, Fargo, N. D.; Clinton High School of Commerce, New York City; Barnard College, Columbia University, and the Connecticut College for Women, in which he is now Professor of Biology. He is perhaps best known to entomologists as the author of a number of papers on Syrphidæ and Odonata and as recently President of the New York Entomological Society. While his own investigations may deal largely with other forms, especially aquatic groups of invertebrates and fishes, entomologists may feel assured that he will give full support to the entomological work and especially to the lines of applied entomology which have been a prominent part of the work in the Ohio institution.

The Third Annual Meeting of Entomological Workers of Ohio was held at Ohio State University on February 2, 1917, with thirty members in attendance. The program consisted of reviews of projects and reports on investigations of members of the Ohio Experiment Station, the State Division of Orchard and Nursery Inspection, and the Department of Entomology of the University. The following program was presented:

Distribution of Ohio Broods of Periodical Cicada with Reference to Soil. H. A. Gossard.

General Reports from Heads of Department Organizations: H. A. Gossard, Ohio Experiment Station; N. E. Shaw, State Division of Orchard and Nursery Inspection; Herbert Osborn, Department of Zoölogy and Entomology, Ohio State University; H. A. Gossard, Review of Projects; J. S. Houser, Review of Projects; W. H. Goodwin, Review of Projects; R. D. Whitmarsh, Review of Projects; D. C. Mote, Review of Projects; J. L. King, Review of Projects; Richard Faxon, Nursery Imports; F. D. Heckathorn, Winter Work in Nurseries and Surroundings; H. E. Evans, An Inspector's Itinerary for a Year; H. J. Speaker, Report of Control of Gipsy Moth Outbreak; C. L. Metcalf, Predaceous Insects; C. J. Drake, Notes on Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Hemiptera of Ohio; Herbert Osborn, Problems with Meadow Insects; T. L. Guyton, Aphididæ of Ohio.

A permanent organization was effected and the following officers elected for 1917-18: N. E. Shaw, Chairman; J. S. Houser, Secretary.

A special appropriation of \$50,000 has been requested in relation to the possible invasion of Texas by the pink bollworm, this money to be expended by the Federal Horticultural Board in coöperation with the Bureau of Entomology in quarantine border control, and control in Texas in particular relation to the various cotton mills which have received considerable quantities of seed from Mexico for milling purposes during the year. T. C. Barber has been transferred from the branch of Southern Field Crop Insect Investigations to the Federal Horticultural Board and was placed

in field charge of this work, effective February 1. An inspection service will be organized, consisting of at least four persons, two of whom will be assigned at once to border control work, and the other two to act in conjunction with Mr. Barber in the interior service and control. The continued disturbed condition in Mexico has frustrated the attempt to make a direct survey of the infested region in Mexico, and the negotiations for permission to make and safeguard such survey, conducted through the Mexican Ambassador Designate and the State Department have so far been unsuccessful.

Mr. John F. Strauss, connected with the Bureau of Entomology since 1903, died on Tuesday, January 2, 1917, at the Pottenger Sanatorium, Monrovia, Cal. After leaving the public schools, Mr. Strauss spent one year in the Kansas State Agricultural College, came East and entered the Virginia State Agricultural College, where he completed a four years' course in Agriculture, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science. After graduation he took up the study of medicine, spending two years at the University of Virginia, completing the courses in comparative anatomy, histology, and bacteriology. He did not further pursue his medical studies, but returned to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the fall of 1897, pursuing graduate work and receiving the degree of Master of Science. Subsequently Mr. Strauss was connected with the Virginia Experiment Station and College as laboratory assistant and assistant instructor. Upon entering the Bureau, Mr. Strauss was employed as an entomological draftsman in the branch of forest entomology, working under the direction of Dr. A. D. Hopkins. During his period of service in that branch from 1903-1908, he made many excellent illustrations of forest insects, among which are those illustrating articles on "Insect Injuries to Forest Products" in the Yearbook for 1904, and "Insect Enemies of Forest Reproduction" in the Yearbook for 1905, and "Injuries to Forest Trees by Flathead Borers" in the Yearbook for 1909. After a short assignment as insect artist to the Bureau in general, during which time he prepared illustrations of cotton insects at the Dallas (Texas) laboratory, and illustrations of parasites of the gipsy and brown-tail moths at the Melrose Highlands (Mass.) laboratory, he was transferred to the office of Deciduous Fruit Investigations, with which office he was connected at the time of his death. Mr. Strauss accomplished a large amount of work in the preparation of drawings of deciduous fruit and other insects, illustrating most of the publications that have appeared from that branch since about 1910. Two papers have been published by Mr. Strauss, namely, one on *Clinocoris lectularius* and the other on the grape leaf-folder, *Desmia funeralis*. He was a member of the Entomological Society of Washington. Mr. Strauss possessed a high degree of artistic ability which, combined with his entomological training, made him unusually successful in insect delineation work. He was earnest and thorough, and possessed a personality which endeared him to all who came to know him.—*Monthly Letter* of the Bureau of Entomology.

Solenopsis Interferes with Rearing Experiments in Texas. Mr. D. C. Parman, Bureau of Entomology, writes that he is having very serious trouble with *Solenopsis*. This ant has been a serious obstacle in the way of the rearing experiments at Uvalde, Texas, but according to his reports it is much worse this year than ever before. He says that there is a large bed heavily infested and that tunnels have been traced as far as 150 yards in some directions. I am wondering if any one in the Bureau has had any experience in the control of this ant under such conditions and if so should like to have their experience.

F. C. BISHOPP.

Mailed April 17, 1917.