
MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.

ORTON HALL, Dec. 7, 1914.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Seymour, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Dr. F. H. Brown, Miss Mary Oliver, Don B. Whelan, and D. M. DeLong were elected to membership in the society.

The names of H. D. Chase, Vernon Haber, W. T. Owry, R. C. Smith, F. H. Smith, J. R. Smith, W. S. Krout, H. J. Reinhard, D. D. Leyda, R. C. Baker, W. E. Laughlin, C. W. Hauck, John Eckert, Oliver Gossard, J. R. Stear, R. A. Knouff, E. H. Baxter, F. F. Searle, H. G. Cutler, and Adolph Waller were proposed for membership in the club.

The program of the evening consisted of two interesting papers: "The Inheritance for Yellow, White, and Cream Colors in Guinea Pigs" by Prof. Barrows and "Some New Ideas in Fertilization" by Prof. Landacre.

The club then adjourned.

CARL J. DRAKE, Secretary.

"PLANT BREEDING"¹ by Professor L. H. Bailey has been revised and brought up to date by Professor A. W. Gilbert of Cornell University. The book as it now appears is a great improvement over previous editions. One of its very commendable features in Appendix E which gives specific directions for laboratory and field work. Altho quite thoroly revised there are still some of the ear marks of the old views left which do not always coincide with the newer ones. It would perhaps have been better to have written an entirely new book.

There are a few errors which might have been avoided if the copy had been read more closely. On page 112, pumpkin is given as *Cucurbita pepo* and the squash as *Cucurbita maxima*, while on page 129 squashes are said to be *Cucurbita pepo*.

It is very unfortunate that pollen-grains are contrasted with eggs cells, as if the word pollen-grain were synonymous with sperm cell. Such a mistake in terminology, as has been pointed out by various writers, can only lead to confusion. Some gymnosperms have as high as 16 sperms in the male gametophyte. Each one of the two sperms of the pollen grain of angiosperms has a separate effect in heredity, one going to fertilize the egg and the other uniting with the two polar nuclei. How could one possibly make clear the checkered arrangement of the endosperm of hybrid corn, if no distinction is made between a male gametophyte of three cells and the single cell of a true spermatozoid?

When it comes to a matter of plant genetics no middle ground is possible; the old morphological terminology is false, as it was invented when fundamentally erroneous notions were held in regard to many of the essential structures of plants.

What we need, is to follow the terminology of modern cytologists and morphologists and all confusion will be avoided.

J. H. S.

1. PLANT BREEDING, by L. H. Bailey. New edition revised by Arthur W. Gilbert, Ph. D., professor of plant-breeding, in the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University. Pp. xviii+474; 113 illus. The Rural Science Series (edited by L. H. Bailey); The Macmillan Company, New York, 1915. Price \$2.00 net.

Date of Publication, May 10, 1915.