

the department of physiology in the University of Chicago, replied on behalf of the scientific status of Dr. Koppanyi's work. Prof. Carlson points out that Dr. Koppanyi has been on the research staff of his laboratory in the University of Chicago since January, and that such newspaper stories as have appeared have not been authorized either by Dr. Koppanyi or by the laboratory. Experiments have been made on spotted rats, and the transplanted eyes have undergone varying degrees of change from complete destruction to mere cloudiness of the tissues. Most of the cause for failure is believed to be secondary infection.

In the most successful experiments, the transplanted eye appears normal in size; the cloudiness clears up, and so far as the scientists have been able to determine there may be some return of vision. Prof. Carlson has controlled Dr. Koppanyi's work and believes that it demonstrates definitely that transplantation can be carried out with at least partial success on the spotted rat. He points out that it remains to be seen whether such results can be duplicated in the dog and the monkey, and if this is achieved, there still remains a very high percentage of complete or partial failure which must be converted into success before anyone would be justified in attempting any such operation on man.

Supplementing the letter of Prof. Carlson, Dr. Koppanyi declares that the charges of Prof. Imre that he gave unwarranted publicity to his work, stating that the return of vision is possible, and admitting that the optic nerve was not cut in his eye transplantation experiments, are not true.

NEW BOTANICAL EXPEDITION RECALIS OLD ROYAL ROMANCE

A woman botanist, Mrs. Agnes Chase of the U. S. National Herbarium, recently sailed for Brazil on a collecting expedition into the interior that recalls a romantic incident in the history of the South American republic as well as one of the classical eras in botanical work on that continent.

In 1807 Dom John VI, King of Portugal, fled before the invasion of his country by Napoleon and sought refuge in his colony of Brazil. While he was in exile, a royal marriage was arranged between his son, later known as Dom Pedro, the first Emperor of Brazil, and Princess Leopoldina of Austria.

When the royal bride came to the New World to join her husband, the personnel of a scientific expedition was included in her entourage. A Bavarian botanist, Carl von Martius, was head of the expedition. The party secured large collections of the Brazilian flora, which have become the type specimens for many South American species. The principal botanical collection of von Martius is now at Brussels. The route traveled by this expedition of over a century ago has never been retraveled.

Mrs. Chase made a careful study of the von Martius collection at Brussels in 1922, and now plans to work in part of the territory covered by his expedition between now and May of next year. She will traverse the great grassy plateau that lies on the "elbow" of eastern Brazil, from Pernambuco on the north to Sao Paulo in the south. Part of the country to be traveled is mountainous, with elevations up to 5,000 feet.

Mrs. Chase expects to concentrate her attention on grasses, in which this upland is especially rich. In addition to securing botanical specimens for the National Herbarium, she will collect seeds of species of possible economic importance for the Bureau of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
