

CLAIMS PLANT-ANIMAL CAUSES MOSAIC DISEASE IN TOBACCO

Mycetozoa, creeping naked bits of protoplasm that are neither plant nor animal but partake of the nature of both, have been added to the list of alleged causes of the serious and highly expensive mosaic disease of tobacco and other plants. In a recent issue of the Botanical Gazette, Philip M. Jones, who has been carrying on his researches at the University of Chicago, states his reasons for believing that he has found the causal organism of this disease, for which botanists are seeking as eagerly as medical scientists are hunting for the cause of cancer.

Mr. Jones claims that he has found this microscopic bit of life passing through a series of half-a-dozen or more disguises both in the tissues of tobacco leaves mottled with the disease and in the digestive tracts of the insects which are believed to be the carriers of the plague. He states that he has been able to grow pure cultures of the organism in sterile nutrient solutions.

In some of the organisms which Mr. Jones examined with his microscope, he says that he saw exceedingly tiny objects which he suggests may be parasites of the parasites, and therefore friends of the plant cultivator because they are enemies of his enemies.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

FAMOUS MEN OF SCIENCE. By Sarah K. Bolton. Revised and enlarged edition, Illustrated, New York. Thomas Y. Crowell. 1926. \$2.00.

We have here an intimate series of portraits of many of the men famous in various branches of scientific work from Copernicus to Kelvin. The biographies are arranged chronologically, an arrangement nicely adapted to bringing out the conditions characteristic of different stages of the general progress of science and civilization under which scientific work has gone forward. Mrs. Bolton has a knack of making living pictures of the persons she presents, dwelling upon the everyday circumstances of their lives, their relationships and idiosyncrasies and suggesting mood and personality with vividness.

THE BACTERIOPHAGE AND ITS BEHAVIOR. By F. d'Herrelle, M.D. Translated by George H. Smith, Ph.D. Baltimore; Williams and Wilkins. \$8.00.

This is a fundamental treatise that explains the new science of bacteriophagy of which d'Herrelle is the founder. The present knowledge of the ultramicroscopic organisms which d'Herrelle believes to be a vital factor in the combatting and treatment of a large variety of diseases is still in its beginnings, but this volume probably ranks as a fundamental publication along with the works of Pasteur.

A rope is stronger when wet than when dry.
