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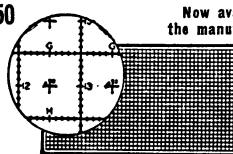
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PLANT PATHOLOGY

Old Method of Relating Plant Viruses Refuted

► **INFECT A PLANT** with one virus and then inoculate it with another virus, and cross protection or interference may result. The first virus may protect the plant against the effects of the second—it interferes with its action.

When no evidence of disease appears in the plant, scientists had believed this was evidence for saying that plant viruses were closely related.

Now, however, according to experiments made by a British scientist, there is evidence that viruses appearing "quite distinct" interfere with one another's infective potential. Using related and unrelated viruses, A. D. Thomson of the Virus Research Unit, University of Cambridge's Molteno Institute, found interference occurred within both groups.

For example, he reports, prior infection with tobacco mosaic virus reduced to at least 50% the number of lesions appearing on a plant inoculated with the unrelated virus, cabbage black ringspot.

Details of the experiments, in which tobacco plants were used, appear in *Nature* (May 31).

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958

METEOROLOGY

Find Early Temperature Records in North America

► **THE EARLIEST KNOWN** temperature readings in North America were taken in 1731 and 1732 at Germantown, Pa.

Even before that, however, a set of precipitation totals near Harvard College for 1715 and a set of barometric pressure readings for Boston in 1725 and 1726 have now been found.

The only other known weather record of earlier date is a non-instrumental abstract of one year of a two-year record kept near the present-day site of Wilmington, Del., in 1644.

Thus the 1737 observations of Dr. John Lining at Charleston, S. C., long believed to be the first instrumental weather records in Colonial America, no longer hold the title.

The earliest known instrumental information from North America was collected by Thomas Robie, who graduated from Harvard in 1708. He recorded precipitation totals at Harvard in 1715.

The second instrumental record of the three now known to precede that of Mr. Lining's is Mr. Feveryear's observations on barometric pressure in Boston in 1725 and 1726. He also observed wind direction and made general comments on the weather.

The non-instrumental abstract of weather conditions near Wilmington was made by the Rev. Johan Campanius.

The search for old records for North America was made by Lt. j.g. James M. Havens, now on duty at the U. S. Fleet Weather Facility, London. His report appears in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* (April).

Science News Letter, June 14, 1958