

# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1912

## SOME BIOCHEMICAL PROBLEMS IN BACTERIOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

### CONTENTS

<i>Some Biochemical Problems in Bacteriology:</i> PROFESSOR F. P. GORHAM .....	357
<i>The Teaching of Microbiology in Colleges of the United States and Canada:</i> PROFESSOR SAMUEL C. PRESCOTT .....	362
<i>A Botanical-zoological Laboratory in Porto Rico:</i> PROFESSOR F. L. STEVENS .....	366
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	367
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	370
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Reply to Holmes's Criticism of "Light and the Behavior of Organisms":</i> PROFESSOR S. O. MAST .....	371
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Brigham's Commercial Geography:</i> DR. W. M. GREGORY .....	374
<i>Some Early Physiographic Inferences:</i> DR. F. V. EMERSON .....	374
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Horns in Sheep as a Typical Sex-limited Character:</i> PROFESSOR T. R. ARKELL, DR. C. B. DAVENPORT. <i>The "Stomach Stones" of Reptiles:</i> DR. ROY L. MOODIE .....	375
<i>The Washington Meeting of the American Chemical Society:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES L. PARSONS .....	378

THE Society of American Bacteriologists stands, primarily, for pure as distinguished from applied bacteriology. In these days when the applications of the science are becoming so immensely important, and therefore so enticing to the investigator, there is danger that our thoughts turn not often enough to the broader aspect of the science, upon which, as a foundation, all of its applications must ultimately rest. We as a society must make it our special duty to see that these foundations are laid broad and firm, upon the very bed rock of truth itself.

We have as a society been interested for some time in the preparation of standard and uniform methods of describing bacterial species. This is of fundamental importance, leading as it does to uniformity of method and completeness and comparability of results. When we couple with this the use of the standard methods of the laboratory section of the American Public Health Association we have gone a long way toward the standardization of our work, and have begun the foundation upon which can be built the science of pure bacteriology.

But we must ever beware that we become not slaves to standardization and uniformity. It is well enough to proceed by standard methods, but we must not be tied by them. We must ever be ready to abandon the old and adopt the new, when the new marks the way of progress.

<sup>1</sup>President's address before the Society of American Bacteriologists at the Washington meeting, December 28, 1911.

MESS, intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

# Science

**35 (897)**

*Science* **35** (897), 357-396.

**ARTICLE TOOLS**

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/35/897.citation>

**PERMISSIONS**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

---

*Science* (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.