The American Association for the Advancement of Science:
The Germininal Background of Somatic Modifications: DR. M. F. GUYER .......................... 169
The National Arboretum: DR. FREDERICK V. COVILLE ........................................... 176
Obituary:
Julius Buell Weems; August Tobler; Kamakichi Kishinouye; Recent Deaths .......................... 178
Scientific Events:
Agriculture in the British Empire; Carnegie-Australian-Harvard Expedition to Northwestern Australia; The George Willis Pack Forestry Foundation of the University of Michigan; Gifts to the School of Forestry of Yale University; The Chilean Nitrate of Soda Nitrogen Research Award ........................................... 179
Scientific Notes and News ........................................... 182
Discussion:
Scientific Books:
Gortner's Outlines of Biochemistry: PROFESSOR WILLIAM SEIFRIZ ........................................... 189

Reports:
The Cancer Research Fund of the University of Pennsylvania ........................................... 191
Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:
A Diet for Stock Rats: DR. L. A. MAYNARD. An Improved Calomel Electrode Vessel: SAMUEL E. HILL ........................................... 192
Special Articles:
Science News ........................................... x

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THE GERMINAL BACKGROUND OF SOMATIC MODIFICATIONS

By Dr. M. F. GUYER
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On the theory apparently that all pleasures must carry a penalty of compensatory pain, some former grim group of zoological Puritans de creed that though this organization may eat, drink and be merry, it must in the end endure a retiring address, so-called presumably because it conduces to the usual result of retiring, sleep. No vice-president of Section F is ever brave enough to break the bonds of this ancestor worship, so you and I, fellow zoologists, are here alike victims of a tradition. Let's be merciful!

In venturing to speak briefly on the germinial background of somatic acquirements, you will observe that I have reversed the traditional order of this combination, the germinial foundation preceding the acquire-