glyphs presented in a work so accessible and recent as Dr. Antonio Penañez’s “Nombres Geográficos de Mexico; Estudio Jeroglífico,” it is scarcely excusable for those who study American archaeology either to overlook or to misunderstand this system of writing. — D. G. Barston.

Media, Pa., Sept. 19.

A CURIOUS EAR OF INDIAN CORN.

A curious freak of nature was recently discovered in a garden in this city. A stalk of maize or Indian corn failed to develop ears at any regular places in the axils of the leaves, but instead a single spike of pistillate flowers (an ear) appeared at the end of the central pedicle of the stalk. This ear was about three inches in length, and apparently well formed, except that it lacked glumes. So being exposed to the sun its color was light green. The style was perfectly developed, and six inches to a foot in length. The places of a few of the grains were occupied by stamine flowers.

Unfortunately this ear was not allowed to grow, and I am unable to say whether it would have developed any perfect grains or not.

Is it a reversion to some ancient form, or only an accidental variation?

O. H. HERSHEY.

Preston, Ill.

A MOUSE DESTROYING ITS YOUNG.

I once had an opportunity of studying a mouse in a cage with a revolving wheel which it was fond of turning; as squirrels are larger but similar wheels. This cage had an apartment over the wheel in which it built a nest from cotton furnished to it. It gave birth to three young mice in the lower apartment, and after a little while removed them to the nest above. One of these young fell out of the nest to the space below. The mother carefully carried it back again. It fell out a second time, and was once more replaced. It fell out a third time. The mother then seized it as if angry and unwilling to waste her energies on so troublesome an offspring, and devoured it with no more feeling than if it had been a bit of cheese.

M. L. Holbrook.

GEOLOGICAL TABLE OF PLANTS.

Could you or any of the readers of Science inform me through your columns where I can find a printed list or table showing the supposed relationships of the commonest genera of plants under the theory of evolution? In good wish to find a literary goal table of plants from the earliest times to the present day. Has any such work been attempted?

THOMAS MARWICK.

New York, Sept. 21, 1893.

NUMBER-FORMS.

Numer-forms, such as described by Mr. Martin and Mr. Talbott Williams in recent issues of Science, were first brought to notice by Mr. Francis Galton in Nature, Jan. 15, 1880. In his “Inquiries into Human Faculty” (Macmillan, 1883) there are illustrations of more than fifty varieties of number-forms. A still larger number is given in a recent book by Fourney (Des Phénomènes de Synopsie, Alcan, 1893).

J. McKee CATTELL

Columbia College, N. Y., Sept. 19.

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