

SCIENCE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, publishing the official notices and proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

11 Liberty St., Utica, N. Y. Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Single Copies, 15 Cts.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00

Entered as second-class matter January 21, 1922, at the Post Office at Utica, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. LV FEBRUARY 3, 1922 No. 1414

<i>Species, Pure and Impure</i> : PROFESSOR BRADLEY MOORE DAVIS.....	107
<i>The Trend of Earth History</i> : PROFESSOR ELIOT BLACKWELDER	114
<i>The Agricultural Museum of the Argentine Rural Society</i> : DR. F. LAMSON-SCRIBNER....	119
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The William Barton Rogers Science Hall of the College of William and Mary; Retirement of Professor Albert W. Smith; The American School of Prehistoric Studies in France; The History of Science at the St. Louis Meeting of the American Historical Association; Report on Membership of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	121
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	124
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	127
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Abraham Cowley and the Agricultural College</i> : DR. R. J. H. DELOACH. <i>The Lost Foxhall Jaw</i> : DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN. <i>The Russian Bureau of Applied Botany</i> : D. N. BORODIN. <i>Memorial to Wilhelm Wundt</i> : PROFESSOR E. B. TITCHENER	127
<i>The Rhodesian Skull</i>	129
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>A Preliminary Attempt to Transmute Lithium</i> : DR. RALPH W. G. WYCKOFF. <i>The Effect of Sodium Hydrate on the Digestibility of Grain Hulls</i> : J. B. LINDSEY.....	130
<i>The American Chemical Society</i> : DR. C. L. PARSONS	132

SPECIES, PURE AND IMPURE¹

THERE has come about in recent years a profound modification of our conception of a species in that the botanist, at any rate, is compelled to recognize the fact that Nature presents large numbers of successful kinds of plants that reproduce their types either wholly or in high percentages, but which clearly have germinal constitutions of a hybrid character. These forms may legitimately be described and classified as species and they are frequently virile lines of evolution making up groups of individuals that readily maintain themselves in suitable habitats. As assemblages of like individuals, hybrid as to their germ plasm, they present subjects of study that were not differentiated by the earlier naturalists from the populations of species as they viewed them.

The test of a species, in addition to the characters that distinguish it, has always been the evidence that it breeds true to its peculiarities or so nearly true that variations from the type may be passed over in the descriptive writings of the systematist as exceptions of little importance to the mind seeking for order and rebellious of mental disturbance in his efforts to express this order in accounts of faunas and floras over the earth. There are, then, chiefly as the result of genetical studies of the near present, two conceptions of species.

There is the *pure species* breeding true because its germ-plasm in the diploid condition carries two similar sets of factors, each set contributed by one of the parents and each set having the same genetic make up except for those factors responsible for sex and for sex-linked characters. The pure species was in the main the concept of Darwin and the older naturalists, and it was assumed to be representative of species. As viewed by the cytologist, confident that chromosomes carry

¹ Address of the president of the American Society of Naturalists, thirty-ninth annual meeting, Toronto, December 29, 1921.

Science

55 (1414)

Science **55** (1414), 107-134.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/55/1414.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. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 1922 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.