

THE STATION NEWS

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Geneva, N.Y.

THE MAY STAFF MEETING, which ordinarily would be held next Tuesday, has been postponed one week.

ACCORDING to present plans, Mr. Munn sails on June 18 for Southampton to attend the International Seed Testing Congress at Cambridge, England, scheduled for July 7 to 12. Returning, he will leave England on July 18. In his capacity of president of the Association, Mr. Munn will go as the representative of the Official Seed Analysts Association of America. In the event that a bill pending before Congress, which authorizes the President to name five official delegates to the Seed Congress, receives favorable action, Mr. Munn will, in all probability, be named by the President as one of the five delegates representing the United States.

THOSE OF the Staff who remember Albert Breitfield, he who for many years propelled the lawnmower over the Station lawns, will regret to learn that his eldest son, a brother of Herman now employed on the Station labor force, died Tuesday morning.

HARRY HADLOW and Mrs. Hadlow are planning a motor trip with friends to Washington next week. Harry and his friend were "buddies" in the war of Camp Alger in 1898, and it is their plan to make Washington their headquarters and from there visit points in Virginia made famous by the camps of the Spanish-American war. Returning, they may take in New York City. The trip will take about two weeks. We hope that our politician does not get mixed up with the oil scandals or become otherwise involved in the political situation in Washington.

MR. MICKLE, who has been carrying on special bacteriological work with catsup under the direction of Dr. Breed, has been made a temporary member of the Station Staff, effective April 1.

RAYMOND C. BENDER, a senior in the Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture, has been appointed Assistant in Research in Chemistry, effective June 16. Mr. Bender will be a member of the inspection laboratory force.

CONRAD MOHR of Potsdam, Germany, has been appointed Florist at the Station, effective July 1, next. Mr. Mohr is at present employed as a gardener in one of the large gardens in Potsdam and has held similar positions in other parts of Germany and in Holland. He is about thirty years of age and unmarried.

SIX MEMBERS of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture are planning to visit the Station tomorrow, Thursday. They are making a trip thru the eastern states, inspecting agricultural institutions, and will go from here to Ithaca.

THE NEWS received the following anonymous contribution recently, and while we are reluctant to make use of anonymous material on general principles, this is too good to keep. Mr. Newton, so the story runs, while out for a walk north of the city last Sunday ran across a bird in a farmer's yard that appeared to be half duck and half leghorn hen. The person reporting this to the NEWS is inclined to doubt the existence of such an animal, but adds sarcastically, "It may be true, I was never out that way when I had been drinking."

: PETER G. COLLIER, A.M., M.D., Ph.D. :
: CHEMIST AND SECOND DIRECTOR :

Dr. Peter G. Collier, second Director of the Station, was the first and only "native son" to occupy that position at this Station. He was born in Chittenango, Madison County, in 1835, and received his elementary education in the local schools, including Yates Polytechnic Institute located at Chittenango. In 1861, Dr. Collier was graduated from Yale, and in 1870 he received the degree of M. D. from the University of Vermont. Subsequent to this, however, he spent several years in the Sheffield scientific school, where he specialized in chemistry, and received his Ph. D. in 1866.

From 1867 to 1877, Dr. Collier taught general and analytical chemistry at the University of Vermont and later served as dean of the medical faculty of that institution. During this interval, he also served as secretary to the State Board of Agriculture and prepared the reports of that body. In 1873 he served on the scientific commission representing the United States at the world's exposition in Vienna. From Vermont Dr. Collier went to Washington to take up the duties of chemist to the Department of Agriculture, a position equivalent to that of chief of the Bureau of Chemistry today. The next step was to the directorship of the Geneva Station.

Perhaps Dr. Collier's most important contribution during his stay in Washington was the development of sorghum-sugar production which followed his researches along these lines. While sorghum has never attained any great degree of importance as a source of sugar in this country, still in 1922 over 36 million gallons of sorghum syrup were manufactured. The grain sorghums are coming into wide use as stock food.

Dr. Collier entered upon his duties as Director of this Station on December 1, 1887, and continued as Director until 1895, when he was forced to retire due to ill health. He did not long survive his retirement.

Two things stand out prominently in Dr. Collier's administration of the Station; one the rescue of the Station from threatened discontinuance, and the other the erection of the present chemistry building. When Dr. Collier assumed the Directorship, the prestige of the Station was at a low ebb at Albany. In his first report Dr. Collier takes particular pains to point out that this condition was due to a lack of appreciation of the purposes of a research institution in political circles and not to any fault of the Station officials. His first interest, therefore, was to build up confidence in the Station among the farmers of the State, particularly, and every effort was made to get influential farmers to come to the Station for conference and demonstrations on various matters of interest to them. These efforts eventually bore fruit in increased interest and confidence in the Station and what might have been a serious crisis was weathered successfully. The erection of the chemistry building came toward the close of Dr. Collier's period of service and marked an important step toward a permanent institution for agricultural research here at Geneva.

In his personal appearance Dr. Collier suggested more the successful business man than the scientist, and he was an efficient and forceful administrator. The Station was fortunate to have a man of his type at its head at that critical time. Mrs. Collier came from a noted family of American educators, the Angells. The late Dr. James B. Angell, President of Michigan was her brother; and Dr. James R. Angell, President of Yale, is a nephew. The latter visited his aunt here at the Station occasionally.