

The experiments which have made Mendel's name famous throughout the world were carried on in the large garden of the cloister. From the time of his novitiate he began experimental work, introducing various plants into the garden and watching their behaviour under treatment. He was fond of showing these cultures to his friends.

Dr. von Niessel relates how on one occasion he was taken to see two plants which had been cultivated side by side without showing any noticeable change. Mendel jokingly said: "This much I do see, that nature cannot get on further with species-making in this way. There must be something more behind."

He was not in full agreement with the views of Darwin, so he embarked on his experiments with peas, which, as we are informed, he continued for eight years. The plants were grown in garden beds, a few also in pots, and were maintained in their natural upright position by means of sticks, branches of trees and strings stretched between. For each experiment a number of pot plants were placed during the bloom period in a greenhouse to serve as control plants for the main experiment in the open as regards possible disturbance by insects. It appears that a certain kind of beetle was especially detrimental to the experiments and had to be guarded against vigilantly.

In all, thirty-four more or less distinct varieties of peas were obtained from several seedsmen and subjected to a two years' trial. In the case of one variety there were noticed among a large variety of plants all alike a few forms which were markedly different. These, however, did not vary in the following year, and agreed entirely with another variety obtained from the same seedsmen; the seeds were, therefore doubtless merely accidentally mixed. All the other varieties yielded perfectly constant and similar offspring; at any rate, no essential difference was observed during two trial years. For fer-

tilization twenty-two of these were selected and cultivated during the whole period of the experiments. They remained constant without any exception.

During this period of scientific work Mendel was also engaged in an investigation concerning the heredity of bees.

He had fifty hives under observation. He collected queens of all attainable races, European, Egyptian and American, and effected numerous crosses between these races, though it is known that he had many failures. Attempts were made to have the queens mate in his room, which he netted in with gauze for the purpose, but it was too small or too dark, and his efforts were unsuccessful. We would give much to know what results he obtained. In view of their genetic peculiarities a knowledge in heredity in bees would manifestly be of great value. The notes which he is known to have made on these experiments cannot be found, and it is supposed by some that in the depression which he suffered before his death they were destroyed.

In 1905 Prof. W. Bateson, from whose interesting biographical notice the above is quoted, visited Königskloster, hoping that some trace of the missing books might be discovered. He was most courteously received by the abbot and the brethren of the cloister, and was presented with the photographs of Mendel, which adorn the books under consideration. Prof. Bateson was shown the hives which had been used for the experiments, but the notebooks were not to be found.

The experiments with peas almost met with a similar fate, for the results were communicated to the Brünn Society in 1865, and published in 1866, but they passed unheeded. The total neglect of his work is known to have been a serious disappointment to Mendel, as well it might, but he had confidence that sooner or later it would obtain recognition. "My time will surely come, he was in the habit of

saying, but it pence him du

Prof. Bateso

"This episod not a pleasant are, of course, but there must be some discovery so long simple, and in the scientific world the thought through inadv of Nägeli, per naturalists ever We would like made any other contemporaries having tried Nä further efforts.

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The types of th most various. To is full of meaning rapid flash of gen focussed daylight steady, slowly perf analysis, are all lig be seen. Mendel's