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British Dyes.

IN view of the present large importation of German dyes into this country, a strong appeal for the protection of the British dye industry is made by Dr. Herbert Levinstein in the *Morning Post* of November 19. Dr. Levinstein points out that the pledge given by Sir Albert Stanley, President of the Board of Trade, on May 15, 1918—namely, that the importation of all foreign dyestuffs should be controlled for a period of not less than ten years after the end of the war—has never been redeemed, and adds: "Nobody suggests that a prohibition of imports except under licence should be permanent. Ultimately, the industry must flourish on its own merits, prosper by its efficiency, by the originality of its inventions, and by the scale of its operations."

It would seem to be a simple matter for the Government to allow imports under licence of such dyes as are required, but not yet manufactured, in this country, and to exclude those which can be shown to be produced here in adequate amount. That the position is not quite so simple as would appear from this is shown by the statement of the Prime Minister so recently as November 11, to the effect that no guarantee could be given that this measure would be brought in before Christmas unless it could be shown that the measure was non-contentious, and by Dr. Levinstein's own very serious and alarming statement that since July last, owing to the large importation of German dyes which has taken place, a great injury has already been inflicted on the dye industry, and consequently on the textile industries. Progress has been arrested, developments brought to a standstill, great plants closed down, and large numbers of workmen thrown out of employment. At the same time, whilst in July, 1914, the German supplies were above 80 per cent. of the dyes used in this country, in July last the output of the British Dyestuffs Corporation, Ltd., was greater in quantity, though less in variety, than the total quantity of dyes imported from Germany in July, 1914.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from the Prime Minister's statement is that opposition exists to the apparently logical measure which the dye manufacturers desire to see introduced, and this can come only from the dye users. Dr. Levinstein's statement shows, further, that German dyes, of the same kind as are being manufactured here, are being bought on the large scale in preference to the dyes made at Huddersfield and Manchester. Evidently the dye users have a very strong preference for German dyes, even of the commoner kind. It was to be expected that the more complicated dyes which the Germans produce, but which are not yet made in this country, would be eagerly acquired by the dye users when available, but that the British Dyestuffs Corporation would be compelled to close down great plants and discharge large numbers of workmen immediately following importation from Germany was not anticipated, and is a matter of most serious moment.

There can be only two reasons for this: either the products made by the British Dyestuffs Corporation are not of the same quality as the German, or they are of the same quality, but must be sold at a higher price. Dr. Levinstein suggests that the latter is the case, for he says: "Owing to the depreciation of the mark, they [the Germans] can undersell any English makers, and yet make large profits." Whatever may be the depreciation in the value of the mark, it does not appear that the Germans are underselling the English manufacturers. As was stated recently in these columns, the average price of the 1500 tons of German dyes mentioned in the House of Commons as having been imported during the first nine months of this year was 7*s.* 11*d.* per lb. Even supposing that part of this quantity consisted of very highly priced dyes, presumably not manufactured here, yet the quantity of the cheaper class of dyes must have been large if, as we may presume, they were at least partly

responsible for the collapse referred to by Dr. Levinstein, and, therefore, their average price could not have been very much less than 7*s.* 11*d.* When it is considered that the average pre-war price of the majority of dyes advertised at present by the British Dyestuffs Corporation was very much nearer 1*s.* than 8*s.*, it is difficult to imagine that there can be such underselling as is suggested.

On the other hand, will the dye users say that the quality of the dyes made at Huddersfield and Manchester is equal in every respect to that of the pre-war (and present) German product? Although the shade of the dyes is probably the same—and there is no doubt that the product made by the chemist in the works is fully equal to the German—this product must necessarily be reduced, by adding salt or other inert material, to a given standard. Precision and exactness in seeing that all deliveries conform to this standard of strength are of vital importance to the dyer, and divergence from this may well lead him to seek his supplies elsewhere.

Antarctic Research.

(1) *Scottish National Antarctic Expedition: Report on the Scientific Results of the voyage of S.Y. "Scotia," during the years* 1902, 1903, *and* 1904, *under the Leadership of Dr. William S. Bruce.* Vol. vii., Zoology; parts i.–xiii., Invertebrates; pp. viii + 323 + 15 plates. (Edinburgh: The Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory, 1920.) Price 50*s.*

(2) *British Museum (Natural History). British Antarctic ("Terra Nova") Expedition,* 1910. *Natural History Report. Zoology.* Vol. xi., No. 9. Mollusca. Part iii., Eupteropoda (Pteropoda Thecosomata) and Pterota (Pteropoda Gymnosomata). By Anne L. Massey. Pp. 203–232: No. 10. Mollusca. Part iv., Anatomy of Pelecypoda. By R. H. Burne. Pp. 233–256 + 4 plates: vol. iv., No. 3. Echinoderma (part xi.) and Enteropneusta. Larvæ of Echinoderma and Enteropneusta. By Prof. E. W. MacBride. Pp. 83–94 + 2 plates. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1920.) Prices 7*s.* 6*d.* and 8*s.* 6*d.*

(1) THE seventh volume of the results of the successful voyage of the *Scotia,* under the able leadership of Dr. W. S. Bruce, contains a series of interesting memoirs. Mr. Pearcey identifies 267 species of Foraminifera, eleven of which are new. He thinks the group richer south of 70° than north of it, and that the Foraminiferal fauna of the arctic and antarctic regions is strikingly similar, from the generally uniform conditions of temperature extending over the bottom of the deep sea (*more* Sir J. Murray). The collection was especially rich in Sponges, which are ably described, with excellent figures, by Prof. Topsent. Ten Hexactinellids were obtained, including new species of Malacosaccus, Acæocalyx, Docosaccus, and Caulophacus, the size of the first and last being remarkable, whilst the wonderful megascleres and microscleres enhance the interest of the group.

The antarctic seas abound in Tetractinellids, though the *Scotia* procured only three known forms. The Monaxonida are grouped as antarctic and subantarctic. Amongst the striking forms is *Cladorhiza thomsoni*, a relation of the interesting little Cladorhiza of the *Challenger,* which was sent as an Alcyonarian to Prof. Arthur Thomson, of Aberdeen. The author repeats his antagonism to the bipolarity theory by pointing out the richness of the antarctic region in Hexactinellids and their paucity in the arctic seas. The wide distribution of the Siphonophores Porpita, Velella, Physalia, and the Diphyidæ is shown by J. H. Koeppern. An elaborate memoir on the structure and relationships of the Hexactinian Porponia, Hertwig, is given by Prof. Carlgren, of Lund, showing, amongst other things, its close connection with Halcuria, mesenteries in both occurring regularly in the endocœls. The new species is *P. antarctica.*

Five species of stony corals are dealt with by Prof. Stanley Gardiner, the most important being a new species, *Madracis scotiae,* from the Abrolhos Bank. Mr. Laidlaw notices the pelagic Polyclad Turbellarian, *Planocera pellucida,* from St. Paul's Rocks; whilst Mr. Pringle Jameson describes the Chætognaths, the wide distribution of which, and the large size of *Sagitta gazellae,* are noteworthy. Mr. L. N. G. Ramsay again takes up the Nereids (Polychæts), of which there were six known forms and one new—*N. falklandica.* The peculiar genus Sclerocheilus receives important treatment from Prof. Ashworth, and a new form, *S. antarcticus,* is described. Miss Helen Pixell (Mrs. Goodrich) gives a careful account of the four Sabellids and the six Serpulids. The resemblance in certain respects of Ehlers' Sabellid genus Potamis to the genus Jasmineira, St. Joseph, merits further attention.

Mr. Tattersall deals with the Schizopods, Stomatopods, and non-antarctic Isopods, together with a few Schizopods collected by the *Discovery* in the tropical Atlantic. A new Boreomysis and the re-discovery of *Exosphaeroma tristense,* Leach, are interesting. The occurrence of a new species of the primitive Dorid, Bathydoris, has enabled