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Selenotropism in plants

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seem to indicate that he is alive to the inconveniences of this practice; and his selection of the Royal Society's List of Scientific Papers as a model points in the same direction. We can only say that we hope his proposals may be carried out upon, or nearly upon, the lines indicated in his report; in this case he and his *collaborateurs* will richly merit the thanks of all palæontologists. *Under favourable circumstances* he thinks the first volume might appear in from two to three years, and the whole be finished in from eight to ten years!

Selenotropism in Plants. By M. C. MUSSET.

Being struck with the influence exerted by light of very little intensity upon the so-called *heliotropic* movements of plants, the author, in order to vary the experiments, adopted the reflected light of the moon as his sole illumination. He sowed in pots seeds of plants well known for their phototropic sensibility, such as *Lens esculenta*, Mönch, *Ervum lens*, Linn., *Vicia sativa*, Linn., &c. When the young plants were a few centimetres long he placed them in a very dark place, where they remained until the night of the experiment. The stems became slender, long, and white; the leaves, which were but little developed, alone had a slightly yellow tinge. During the night of 23–24th February, with a very clear sky, these seedlings were placed in a large window looking to the south, so that they received the direct light of the moon from 9 P.M. to 3 A.M. After a very few minutes of exposure the stems became bent, with the concavity and the terminal bud always presented to the moon, and following it in its course; only about 2 A.M., owing to the changed position of the moon, the bow became nearly straight. The seedlings were then carried to another window looking westward; and a new influence was produced, and continued until the moment of the disappearance of the moon behind the mountain. After a pause of a few minutes the stems then erected themselves more or less under the influence of internal causes and geotropism. To these movements, which he observed for three successive nights, the author gives the name of *selenotropism*.—*Comptes Rendus*, March 5, 1883, p. 663.

*Jumping Seeds and Galls**. By CHARLES V. RILEY.

Having recently received some fresh specimens of so-called "Mexican Jumping Seeds," or "Devil's Beans," as they are popularly called, I take occasion while yet they are active to exhibit them to the society. It will be noticed that these seeds are somewhat triangular, or of the shape of convolvulus-seeds, there being two flat sides meeting at an obtuse angle, and a convex one, which has a median carina. They not only roll from one side to another, but

* Read before the Biological Society of Washington, November 24, 1882.