OPEN LETTERS.

Terminology of the inflorescence of grasses.

One of your correspondents, in the December number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, objects to the terminology adopted in my paper on grasses which appeared in the October issue of the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club. He says I have "changed the definite and well-known terms, 'glume' and 'palet', to the very loose and indefinite word 'scale.' " He has, however, misrepresented my application of the term scale, for while I did use it in referring to the glumes, in no instance have I employed it in connection with the palet, being well "aware of the morphological dissimilarity of these organs." In the paper referred to I had no occasion to allude to the palet, so that I cannot understand on what grounds the assertion is based. In my paper on "New or Noteworthy American Grasses" in the November number of the *Bulletin* it was necessary to describe this organ and I alluded to it as the palet, as a reference to page 463 of that periodical will show.

Your correspondent displays ignorance when he says "the term 'scale' is used to designate the *flat* imbricate bracts in inflorescences of various families, e. g., Cyperaceæ, Xyrideæ, Compositæ, etc." While the scales in *Cyperus*, a by no means small genus, are imbricated, as is also the case in grasses, they could hardly be called flat; they are actually carinate and nerved, as in Gramineæ. They are rounded and keeled in many other sedge genera. They are concave in *Xyris*, and largely so in Compositæ. Neither are all grass scales carinate, but a large number are rounded. There can be no possible objection to calling these organs glumes if any one desires to do so.—
GEO. V. NASH, *Washington, D. C.*

Mimicry of fungi in insects.

Professor Farlow¹ has evidently overlooked the description of the mimicry of fungus spots on the wings of *Kallima* which is given by Wallace in "Darwinism", pages 207 and 208. Although he does not name the fungus imitated, he gives the essential facts as stated by Dr. Farlow.—R.

¹BOT. GAZ. 20: 547. 1895.

1896. "Mimicry of Fungi in Insects." *Botanical gazette* 21(1), 41–41.
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