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voyage of Jacques Cartier to New France to 1800, was a period of very slow scientific progress, and the names of those who in any way contributed to botanical work in Canada do not exceed 24. Regarding these the author gives much interesting information, with notices of their work. It is evident that it has taken much time and labor to search out these facts, and the thanks of the antiquarian, as well as the historian and botanist, are due to Professor Penhallow.

AN IMPORTANT contribution to the knowledge of the moss-flora of New Guinea forms the last issued part of the *Bibliotheca botanica*.<sup>6</sup> The collections on which it was based were made by Bäuerlen in 1885 in the south, by Chalmers and Bridge in the Cloudy Mts. in 1884, and by Lawes in the Astrolabe Range. Eighteen new species are characterized and eight figured on the beautiful plates. An appendix enumerates the Hepaticæ of the same collections, including one new species.

CYPRESS "knees" have long been of special interest to morphologists. Dr. W. P. Wilson found favorable opportunity to study these structures while in Florida. A preliminary notice<sup>7</sup> describes two modes of formation, (a) by growing upward of young roots till they reach the air and then turning downward again, the knee forming at the angle; (b) by local outgrowths from the upper surface of old horizontal roots. Similar ærating organs were caused to form on Indian corn by keeping the soil saturated. They were also observed on *Pinus serotina*, *Nyssa aquatica* and *Avicennia nitida*.

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## OPEN LETTERS.

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### Flowers and Insects.

I have been much interested in Mr. Robertson's article on Flowers and Insects. Under *Dicentra Cucullaria* he refers to observations of others and myself in regard to the puncturing of the corolla by bees. I am pretty sure that the holes were made by honey-bees, as a large hive is in the next yard to mine, and my flowers constantly visited by its occupants. I have observed the same puncturing this year in my yard and that of Mr. George Hunt. It should be stated, however, that *Dicentra* is not indigenous here, and is only seen in cultivation. In the wild state it may, for all I know, be untouched.

W. W. BAILEY.

*Providence, R. I.*

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### The National Herbarium.

In the GAZETTE for April an allusion was made to the National Herbarium, which, perhaps, was not sufficiently definite. An arrangement

<sup>6</sup> GEHEEB, ADELBERT.—Neue Beiträge zur Moosflora Neu-Guinea. *Bibl. bot.*, heft 13. Pp. 12. pl. 8. 4to. Cassel: Theodor Fischer, 1889. M. 10.

<sup>7</sup> WILSON, WM. P.—The production of ærating organs on the roots of swamp and other plants. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* Apr. 2, 1889. Svo. pp. 3.

was made, some time ago, between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, by which the botanical collections of the Department of Agriculture and the botanical collections of the Smithsonian Institution in the National Museum were practically united to constitute the National Herbarium, and were placed under the care of the botanist of the Department of Agriculture. There is no present transfer of the herbarium of this department, but whenever the Smithsonian Institution secures a new fire-proof building, special provision will be made for bringing the two collections together.

The appropriation for herbarium work has been increased and valuable collections of plants are now being made in various parts of the country. We hope in time to make the herbarium worthy of the name of National. At the same time we hope to form such relations with the agricultural colleges of the country as will be for mutual benefit. We hope also, through exchanges, to enlarge our representation of foreign plants. We shall be glad of the aid of botanists throughout the country in the way of donations or exchanges of desirable plants, especially of those of distant or unexplored sections.

GEO. VASEY.

*Washington, D. C.*

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

GEO. R. VASEY is collecting in E. Washington Terr. for the Department of Agriculture.

THIS YEAR is the centennial of the introduction of the chrysanthemum into Europe and of the dahlia into England.

AN ENDEAVOR is being made to establish a fund for the promotion of botanical research in memory of the late Dr. Leitgeb of Graz.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of the late Ernst Rudolph von Trautvetter, by F. G. von Herder, has just been published in the *Botanisches Centralblatt*.

A SPECIMEN of *Podophyllum* has been received from John M. Snider of Dayton, Ohio, which consists of a flowering stem without leaves or leaf scars, and also has the stamens united.

MR. J. REYNOLDS VAIZEY, of Cambridge University, England, a young botanist of much promise, is dead. Some of his best writings appeared in the first volume of the *Annals of Botany*.

A SHORT ARTICLE on potato scab, giving a resumé of present known facts, is contributed by Prof. Jas. E. Humphrey to the sixth Annual Report of State Agric. Expt. Station at Amherst, Mass.

DR. ANTOINE MOUGEOT, a well-known cryptogamic botanist of France, died February 20, at 74 years of age. He was one of the charter members and the first secretary of the *Société Mycologique de France*.

DR. C. F. MILLSAUGH is publishing a series of articles on our native medicinal plants in the *Homœopathic Recorder*. The recent numbers contain plates and descriptions of *Epiphegus Virginiana* and *Viburnum Opulus*.

DR. SERENO WATSON was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences at the recent meeting in Washington. The number of members is now one hundred, the limit fixed by the laws of the Academy, although never before attained.