

lowlands are confined to the pneumatic cabinet in their search for these benefits. From what has been said regarding the mechanical change which respiration undergoes we gather that a temporary employment of condensed air, besides its various other effects, would be a good preparation for the proper performance of the respiratory function in a more rarefied atmosphere.*

G. VON LIEBIG.

UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH.

NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WILMINGTON REGION.

A BRIEF collecting trip to the vicinity of Wilmington, N. C., made about the middle of April, greatly impressed me with the natural history advantages of the region. I publish these few notes in the hope that they may be of service to other naturalists who think of visiting the Southern coast.

In Wilmington itself no one can fail to notice the admirable shade tree, the laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia* Michx.), so common along the streets. This tree in Wilmington passes under the name of water oak; in South Carolina it is known as the Darlington oak. Its straight bole, symmetrical top and moderate size give it an elegance of shape well suited to city streets, and the impression of finish is heightened by the glossy aspect of the foliage.

From the city there runs a most excellent road, eight miles long, to Wrightsville, a settlement on the coast. The road is a well-kept shell road, smooth, hard, and good for bicycling. Scrub oaks, elms, long-leaf pines and cypresses edge it, and near the sound the full green heads of the live oaks are seen on all sides. In the open meadow-like places (savannahs) to the right and left of the road there grow in great abundance insectivorous plants, the most interesting members, to the general biologist at

least, of that rich Wilmington flora made known through the labors of Curtis, Wood and other systematic botanists. The yellow-flowered pitcher plant, *Sarracenia flava*, dots the savannahs in all directions; its great flower (four inches wide) upheld by a scape one to two feet, making it a conspicuous object. The fly-trap, *Dionaea*, and sun-dew, *Drosera*, neither in flower at the time of my visit, are scattered thickly about. Intermingled with these are a blue and yellow species of butterwort, *Pinguicula*, their bright flowers standing out clearly against the (at this time) brownish savannah and often leading one to patches of *Dionaea* and *Drosera*, which otherwise would have been passed by unnoticed. These five insectivorous plants may sometimes be found growing together in a little patch of ground, scarcely larger than a square foot.

The topography of the Wrightsville district is that characteristic of the Carolina coast, and in a less degree of the Southern coast in general. A sound separates the mainland from a seaward strip of land, known as the 'banks.' Wrightsville, largely made up of houses occupied only during the summer, is on the mainland. Opposite it, on the banks, is a newer summer settlement. Between the two, the sound is crossed by a railroad trestle, the piles of which afford good collecting.

The sound something less than two miles wide, is divided into a narrow outer portion, adjoining the banks and known as the banks channel, and a wider inner portion, studded with sandy-mud shoals. The banks channel is a narrow but pretty boating ground, opening out to sea through two inlets, one recently made in a heavy storm. Along the inner edge of the channel lie some islands, the 'hammocks,' wooded with live oaks, about which jackdaws (*Quiscalus major*) were flying. This bird is said to spend the winter here.

* Translated from the author's MS. by Henriette Weber, Columbus, O.

At high water one can sail over many of the shoals of the inner part of the sound, but at low water the course from the mainland to the banks channel is a meandering one. The shoals are alive with worms, *Arenicola*, *Diopatra*, *Clymenella* and other annelids, along with the great *Balanoglossus*, were dug up in quick succession. The reddish egg masses of *Arenicola* lay about in abundance on the flats. The low water collecting in the shoal part of the sound is very easy. Pushing along in a skiff through the shallow channels between the flats, one finds starfish (*Asterias*), the red and white sea-urchins (*Arbacia* and *Toxopneustes*), abundant crabs and other common bottom forms. Scattered about over the bottom in great numbers is the interesting anemone, *Cerianthus americanus*. The tubes that were dug up were something over a foot in length; they contained animals, which of course had greatly contracted, about six inches long. This distinctively Southern actinia, originally found on the South Carolina coast by Professor Louis Agassiz (Verrill, Revision of the Polypi of E. Coast of U. S., p. 32. Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. I.), has been observed by Mr. Wm. Stimpson and Professor McMurrich at Beaufort, N. C., where I have seen it myself. It is, however, far more abundant at Wrightsville, and any one wishing to work out the life-history of this remarkable form could find no better locality than the latter place. I may add that the reproductive organs of the specimens I collected were very small. The breeding season probably comes on later.

Just before high water I towed in the neighborhood of the old inlet. As I had anticipated from previous experiences in Beaufort harbor at this time of year, not much of interest was in the water. Small hydromedusæ, crustacean larvæ, abundant *Sagittas*, make up the tow stuff. Later in the year, doubtless as at Beaufort, the

towing is excellent. I am told that abundant large jelly-fish and Portuguese men-of-war make their appearance in August and September.

The sea-beach has a very gentle slope, and judging in part from specimens sent me by Mr. Chas. M. Whitlock, of Wilmington, many things of interest are to be had just beyond the line of breakers, where the sea is frequently calm enough to permit collecting. In the main the Wrightsville fauna is evidently very similar to that of Beaufort (see the lists in Studies of Biol. Lab. Johns Hopkins Univ., Vol. IV., No. 2, and the list of annelids by Professor Andrews, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XIV., No. 852). I may add that some of the local collectors would recognize, from a description, many of the striking forms, such as *Chaetopterus*, *Chalina arbuscula*, *Leptogorgia virgulata*, all of which may be had here.

H. V. WILSON.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

PETRIE'S 'NEW RACE' IN EGYPT.

Two years ago (SCIENCE, August 28, 1895) I described the discovery by Mr. Flinders Petrie in Middle Egypt of remains which he attributed to an invading race about the twelfth dynasty, and which he was inclined to believe were Libyan stock.

Since then there has been considerable discussion of the subject, the general trend of which was in favor of Petrie's view. Dr. G. Schweinfurth, however, in the *Verhandlungen* of the Berlin Anthropological Society for January, attacks this theory, and claims that the remarkable stone artefacts unearthed in the tombs of the 'New Race' are such as are made to-day by the Ababde in the Thebaïs. He is inclined to the belief that the ancestors of these tribes in prehistoric times were the so-called 'New Race' and came from the Bedcha stock, near the coast of the Red Sea.