THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE.

NEARLY twenty years ago (September, 1879) half a dozen men conceived the idea of organizing a society of scientific men, the object of which should be to promote agriculture by fostering investigation in science applied to agriculture. As a result the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science came into existence, and its members have met once a year in connection with the American Association for Advancement of Science. Last August the Society held its nineteenth meeting, at which the President, Dr. B. D. Halsted, presented a historical summary of the work accomplished since its organization. In this time (not including the Boston meeting last year) the members presented and the Society published 278 papers. It is gratifying to the botanists to know that of this number 102 dealt with botanical problems. These were grouped as follows: Structure and physiology, 26; agrostology, 16; pathology, 43; weeds, 7; seeds, 10. The following titles taken almost at random from the list of botanical papers will show that the botanist who wishes to have copies of all important botanical publications must include those which have appeared in the Proceedings of this Society: 'Variations in Cultivated Plants,' 'Notes upon the Flowering Plants of Ohio,' 'Notes upon Bean and Pea Tubercles,' 'The Agricultural Grasses of Arizona,' 'Grasses and other Forage Plants best adapted to endure Drouth,' 'A Tomato Disease,' 'The Scab of Wheat Heads,' 'New Experiments with Fungicides for Smut of Wheat and Oats,' 'The Weedy Plants of Ohio,' 'The Vitality of Seeds Buried in the Soil,' 'Delayed Germination of Cocklebur.'

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

THE FORESTS OF CANADA.

THE United States Consul at Montreal, Mr. Bittinger, has sent to the Department of State a report showing the distribution of forests in Canada and throughout the world. The following table shows the area of the forests in the different Provinces:

Province.	Total area.	Woodland.	Percentage of wood.
	Sq. miles.	*Sq. miles.*	*Per cent.*
Ontario.....	219,650	102,118	46.49
Quebec.....	227,500	116,521	51.22
New Brunswick...	28,100	14,766	52 55
Nova Scotia.....	20,550	6,464	31.45
Prince Edw. Is.....	2,000	797	39.85
Manitoba.....	64,066	25,626	40
British Columbia..	382,300	285,554	74.69
N'thwest Ter.....	2,371,481	696,952	29.38
Total	3,315,647	1,248,798	37.66

The quantity of pine is estimated, in Ontario, as 19,404,000,000 board feet; in Quebec, at 15,734,000,000 feet; in the other Provinces, at 2,200,000,000 feet; total, 37,338,000,000 feet. A low calculation of the annual cut is 1,000,000,000 feet, in which case Canada has not more than forty years' supply, and the growth of new wood, in spite of all regulations, is not nearly equal to the cut. It is impossible to give anything like a just return of the spruce limits, estimates being so diverse as to be useless.

The great tree of Ontario is the white, or Weymouth pine. There are also the red pine, spruce, hemlock, etc. The valuable black walnut, tulip, plane and coffee trees are almost extinct. The quantity or value of timber can not be given, as many millions of acres are utterly unexplored. In the known woods a return to the Ontario government states that there are 60,410,000,000 feet.

Quebec, with its newly added territory, is now an even larger Province than Ontario. Vast regions to the north are unknown. The white pine is the most important tree, as in Ontario; it is, however, rapidly disappearing. Rich spruce is noted in Bonaventure River au Bouleau, Chicoutimi county, River French and Bay Lake. There is great waste of hemlock, on account of its bark.

Some of the best cedar areas of the country are on the north shore of New Brunswick. An unsurveyed area of some 2,000,000 acres on the Upper Restigouche is reported to be full of good spruce and cedar. The pine forests, at one time rich, have been greatly impoverished. The same is true of Novia Scotia. A quantity of good spruce is left in the last-named Province, but it is being used in a similar way.

British Columbia may be said to possess the largest compact timber resources in the world. Only the fringe has been cut. It is estimated that the Douglass pine, cedar, spruce, Alaska pine, etc., standing in the railway belt, amount to 25,000,000,000 feet, worth $25,000,000. The coast is heavily timbered as far north as Alaska. There is no white pine, but spruce attains perfection in this section.

The following table shows the area in forests in various countries of the world :

Country.	Acres in forests.	Percent'ge of total area.
Europe.		
Austria	24,172,360	32 58
Hungary	18,777,771	23.52
Belgium	1,243,507	17.08
Bulgaria	3,291,100	12
France	23,466,450	17.92
Germany	34,347,000	25.70
Greece	2,025,400	12.60
Italy	10,131,235	14.31
Norway	19,288,626	24.53
Portugal	1,163,841	5.25
Roumania	4,942,000	15.22
Russia	498,240,000	37.15
Servia	5,763,163	48
Spain	16,354,941	13.03
Sweden	44,480,000	40.65
Switzerland	2,259,018	20.12
Turkey	3,500,000	8.93
United Kingdom	2,695,000	4
America.		
Canada	799,230,720	37.66
United States	450,000,000	23.29
British Guiana	5,760,000	18
Asia.		
India	140,000,000	25
Turkey	17,500,000	.....
Japan	28,700,000	30.24

AN EXHIBITION OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

THE City Library Association of Springfield, Mass., has recently erected a fine building, which is to be devoted to the display and use of collections in Natural History. As some interval of time must elapse before the collections can be installed, there has been arranged in the main museum hall — 123x47 feet in dimensions—an attractive and instructive exhibition of material which illustrates the rapid advance in geography and geology.

A study of this collection of maps and publications reveals great activity on the part of government and publishers in map-making and in the adaptation of recent discoveries for the use of school and colleges. An opportunity is offered to compare the technique and scope of the surveys and maps made by the United States, England, France and Germany. There are displayed a number of sheets of the Ordnance Survey of England and many staff maps from Germany and France. The clearness with which a multitude of details is shown on these productions is remarkable. Then the results of the topographical survey of the United States are shown in a carefully selected series of atlas sheets. The geographers of this country have taken up with much zeal the task of classifying various land forms. That such a proceeding is hedged round with difficulties is easily apparent. The best success has been had where the relative development of a region has been made the test in classification. Among the sheets on exhibition are several selected by Henry Gannett, chief geographer of the United States. Use has also been made of the recent work of Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University.

There is in the exhibition material which illustrates recent progress in geology. The exhibit made by the United States Geological Survey at Omaha has been loaned for the purposes of this exhibition. There are also examples of the work of the Geological Surveys of Great Britain, of Canada, of Germany and of many of the State governments. Especially fine work has been done in New Jersey under the direction of John C. Smock, and in Maryland by William Bullock Clarke. Professor B. K. Emerson, of Amherst College, has loaned his valuable manuscript maps on the geology of old Hampshire county, in Massachusetts.

There is also a very complete exhibition of the works of the best map makers in this country and abroad, and a number of relief maps. The Association cordially invites all persons interested in geography and geology to to visit the exhibition, which it is now planned to continue until July 1st.