

Professor Charles S. Sargent, author of 'The Silva of North America,' has under preparation a work to be known as 'Trees and Shrubs' and to consist of illustrations and brief descriptions of new and little-known trees and shrubs, chiefly from material obtained from the Arnold Arboretum. It will not be confined wholly to North American plants, but 'will include also the woody plants of other regions, especially those of the northern hemisphere, which may be expected to flourish in the gardens of the United States and Europe, and those of special commercial or economic interest and value.' It is to be published at irregular intervals, and each part will contain twenty-five plates. It is the hope of the publishers that one part will appear in the fall of 1901, and that at least two parts may be issued each year. From the specimen plates and pages of text it is evident that this is to be a work second only to the 'Silva' in importance and value to working botanists and horticulturists.

THE OAKS OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

BOTANISTS who have puzzled over the little oak trees of the Pike's Peak region in Colorado will be interested in a paper by Dr. Rydberg in a *Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden* (Vol. II., No. 6), in which he attempts to bring something like order out of the chaotic condition which has existed hitherto. After several seasons of field work in the Rocky Mountains, Dr. Rydberg finds that the Colorado oaks heretofore referred to *Quercus undulata* and *Q. gambelii* are more properly to be referred to ten or eleven species, three of which prove to have been undescribed. About Pike's Peak there are no less than six species, instead of the single species *Q. undulata*; these are *Q. utahensis*, *Q. leptophylla* (new), *Q. gunnisonii*, *Q. nitescens* (new), *Q. novo mexicana* and *Q. gambelii*. Dr. Rydberg found it necessary to extend his studies throughout the mountain region, and as a result he has very considerably enlarged the list of species for this portion of the continent. His descriptive list includes no less than twenty-nine names, of which the new species are: *Q. submollis* (Arizona), *Q. vreelandii* (Colorado to New Mexico), *Q. leptophylla* (Colorado), *Q. nitescens* (Colorado to Utah), *Q. eastwoodiae* (Utah), *Q.*

havardi (Texas), *Q. pauciloba* (Arizona), *Q. wilcoxii* (Arizona to Utah and Nevada).

CHARLES E. BESSEY.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

As we have already recorded, the University of Chicago conferred in connection with its decennial eleven honorary degrees. President Harper, in welcoming the men of science on whom the LL.D. degree was conferred, spoke as follows:

Edward Charles Pickering,

during twenty-five years Payne Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College, an observatory developed through your labors into an institution foremost in research on two continents; organizer in the United States of a system of laboratory teaching of great influence on education in physical science; student of optics; discoverer of variable stars and investigator in stellar photometry; originator of many astronomical applications of photography and spectroscopy, which have revealed the constitution of the stellar universe:—for these distinguished services, and especially for the last-named, by the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, upon nomination of the University Senate, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws of this University, with all rights and privileges appertaining thereunto.

Jacob Henry van't Hoff,

Professor of Physical Chemistry in the University of Berlin, investigator who has brought to bear upon chemical problems a keen and logical mind, endowed with speculative and imaginative powers of the highest order, founder of the theory explaining the space relations of atoms in molecules—a theory which is essential to a comprehension of the chemistry of organized and inorganized matter; master in the field of dynamic chemistry; investigator and brilliant discoverer in the domain of the modern theory of solutions, a theory which constitutes one of the greatest advances made by chemical science in the last quarter of a century:—for these splendid and fertile achievements, by the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, upon nomination of the University Senate, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws of this University, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto.

Charles Doolittle Walcott,

Director of the United States Geological Survey, Superintendent of the National Museum, author of

numerous paleontological and geological contributions of eminent merit, notable among which are a series of monumental works on the Cambrian System of North America: for these distinguished contributions, and for signal ability displayed in the administration of the scientific and educational interests committed to your charge, by the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, upon the nomination of the University Senate, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws of this University, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto.

Edmund Beecher Wilson,

Professor of Zoology in Columbia University, zoologist and worker in the field of biology, teacher and leader of many young investigators, writer of standard text-books in general biology and of numerous philosophical essays and classical memoirs on zoology; author of a masterpiece of research and presentation, 'The Cell in Development and Inheritance,' which embodies the writer's original contributions in embryology and cytology, as well as the results reached by other workers in these fields—for these eminent services in science, especially for the work last named, by the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, upon the nomination of the University Senate, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws of this University, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Philosophical Society, at its meeting on May 17, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, The American Philosophical Society is and always has been a society of national scope, whose place of meeting was originally fixed at Philadelphia for reasons of convenience now less potent than formerly; and

Whereas, The growth and wide extent of our country and the multiplication of local societies tends to keep from our regular meetings those members who do not reside within a short distance of Philadelphia; and

Whereas, It is desirable that measures be taken to bring the distant members into more active participation in the work of the Society; therefore be it

Resolved, (1) That a committee of five be appointed by the President to consider the advisability and, if deemed advisable, to arrange for a general meeting at a time most convenient to all the members;

(2) That this meeting shall cover one or more days as may be considered advisable, and it is hoped

that the high scientific character and broad interest of the papers to be presented shall insure the attendance of a good proportion of distant members;

(3) That this committee shall have power to add to its number and to make all necessary arrangements to further the success of the proposed general meeting.

The committee appointed, consisting of Professors George F. Barker, Chairman, Edwin G. Conklin, Charles L. Doolittle, William B. Scott, William Powell Wilson, has enlarged its number, and has asked for suggestions which will tend to promote the success of the proposed general meeting. It is suggested that the meeting be held on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day, on the Friday and Saturday following New Year's Day, or in Easter week.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE preliminary announcement of the Denver meeting of the Association has been mailed to all members, and it will undoubtedly have been noticed that the question of railroad rates has been left incomplete, except for the announcement of the Western Passenger Association, the statement being made that further arrangements will be announced in SCIENCE. The following arrangements have been made: *The Western Passenger Association*, covering the territory west of Chicago and St. Louis, has made a rate of one fare plus \$2 for the round trip, from all points in their territory to Denver, tickets to be sold July 10 to August 31, with final return limit of October 31.

The New England, Trunk Line, Central and Southeastern Passenger Associations, covering the territory east of Chicago and St. Louis, have made a rate of a fare and one-third for the round trip from all points in their territory to Denver, on the certificate plan, the conditions of which are as follows:

1st. Each person desiring to avail himself of the reduced rate must purchase a first-class ticket (either limited or unlimited) to the place of meeting, at the regular tariff rate and at the same time procure from the ticket agent a certificate of the standard form. If through ticket cannot be procured at the starting