

SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1901.

PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES OF SYSTEM-
ATIC BOTANY.*

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THESE annual summer meetings of our Society, occurring as they do between the close of one year's academic activity and the beginning of the next, offer an excellent opportunity not merely for profitable retrospects, but for such interchange of ideas as may stimulate renewed effort. The summary of results achieved, although a natural and desirable part in the proceedings of an assembly of this sort, is subject to a growing difficulty from the ever-increasing technicality of modern research. We live in an age of great detail and at a time when our subject has branched into many narrowing paths of investigation. Thus, even at a meeting of highly trained botanists, there is less common ground than we could wish, and it is scarcely possible, without the certain ennui of most of our colleagues, to present the finer results in those particular researches which may have stirred us individually to great enthusiasm. On the other hand, the aims and methods in our varying lines are by no means so unlike, and afford an ever-fertile field for discussion and comparison. It may be further maintained, in defiance of any suspicion of prejudice, that the aims and methods of systematic botany should command an especial and very gen-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.,

* Delivered at Denver, August 28, as an address by the retiring President of the Botanical Society of America.