

# 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1905.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## APPLIED BOTANY AND ITS DEPENDENCE UPON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.\*

UNFORTUNATELY for me, the time for this address before the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology comes so far along in the twentieth century that there is opportunity for neither a retrospective nor a prospective view of botany, even were I competent to assume the rôle of an historian or a prophet. I had, therefore, thought of presenting a somewhat general discussion of some of the problems involved in soil bacteriology, but, fortunately for you, this has recently been done before another society by another investigator, so that there is no reason for digging over the same soil here. On the other hand, the discussion of some purely technical botanical subject connected with my particular field of work seems more properly to belong to that part of the program devoted to scientific papers. Consequently, by this process of elimination, the only question of general interest occurring to me seems to be that one which most of us have grown tired of answering and yet, because of the tendency of this age, is the one which we have to answer more often than any other, namely, Of what good is botany? Why do we teach it? and above all, Why have we as men and women allied ourselves with such a profession? Far be it from me to attempt to defend botany against all who are now engaged in its pursuit. These are matters for one's own conscience, but for those of us here, members of the Society

\* Address of the president of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology, Philadelphia, December, 1904.