

The paper, which covers 64 pages, includes a ten-page structural and historical introduction, followed by a key to the species of *Chara*. Following the key are full descriptions of all of the species, with the type locality, distribution, illustrations and exsiccatae for each species. Suggestive critical notes are appended in many cases, adding much to the value of this important contribution to our knowledge of this interesting group of plants.

A MOSS BOOK.

SOME weeks ago Part III. of Dr. Grout's 'Mosses with Hand-lens and Microscope' came to hand, continuing the work from page 167 to 246. In this part we have the completion of the family *Tortulaceae*, and the treatment in succession of *Encalyptaceae*, *Orthotrichaceae*, *Schistostegaceae*, *Splachnaceae*, *Funariaceae*, *Meeseaceae*, *Timmiaceae*, *Aulacomniaceae*, *Bartramiaceae*, *Bryaceae* and *Leskeaceae*. The two families to which the most space is given are *Orthotrichaceae* and *Bryaceae*, which together take up more than half of the pages of this part. The illustrations and text maintain the high standard set by the author in the two preceding parts. The statement is made that two more parts will complete this important and very useful work.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

CENTRAL BUILDING OF IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS.

ON June 8, 1906, the new central building of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts was dedicated. Hon. W. J. Dixon, in speaking of the construction of the building, said:

The building is 216 feet long by 112 feet in depth. Floor area 98,000 square feet. The building contains 1,892,738 cubic feet of materials. The base is of Georgia granite and the outer walls of Bedford stone. The roof is tile set in concrete. Construction is fire-proof throughout. The plumbing, heating and lighting is of the most approved modern systems. The cost of the completed building is \$375,000.

The architects were Proudfoot & Bird, of Des Moines; the builder was Henry W. Schleuter, and the superintendent of construction was Dean Anson Marston. The furniture cost \$52,000.

The commencement address was made by Dr. F. W. Gunsaulus, of Chicago. The following number of degrees were conferred: B.S.A., 34; D.V.M., 4; B.M.E., 19; B.C.E., 27; B.S. in E.E., 21; B.S. in Min.E., 8; B.S., 14, three men and eleven women; M.S.A., 6; C.E., 1; M.S., 2; B.D.S., 1. One honorary degree of M.Ph.

At a meeting of the board of trustees on June 1, R. Earle Buchanan was made assistant professor of general bacteriology and Estelle D. Fogel was made instructor in botany.

The following departments have rooms in the new central building: English, history, mathematics, civics, economic science, modern languages, elocution and oratory. There are also general offices for the board and the secretary, the purchasing committee, the president and faculty, and a reception room, treasurer's office, and the rooms of the department of botany. The department of botany occupies most of the upper floor and the attic story.

L. H. PAMMEL.

SIR WILLIAM PERKIN AND THE AMERICAN JUBILEE OF THE COAL TAR INDUSTRY.

WE have already noted the British celebration in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the dye-stuff mauve by Sir William Perkin. American chemists decided to celebrate the foundation of the coal tar industry independently, and Sir William Perkin and Lady Perkin left Liverpool on the *Umbria*, on September 22, to be present at a banquet which will be given at Delmonico's, on October 6.

The American committee submitted to a public meeting, held May 28, 1906, the following program: (1) To invite Sir William Perkin to be present at the American celebration as the guest of the Americans. (2) The presentation to Sir William Perkin of a personal token. (3) The foundation of a Perkin medal to be awarded annually to an American chemist for distinguished work in applied

chemistry. (4) The establishment of a nucleus of a fund for the foundation, at the Chemists' Club, in New York City of a reference and circulating library, covering the entire field of theoretical and applied chemistry, which is to be in charge of a salaried librarian and to contain duplicate sets, one of them to be used for circulation among American chemists.

It was estimated that \$5,000 would be amply sufficient to cover the expenses of the personal token and the Perkin medal, while the sum of at least \$50,000 would be necessary for placing the library on a permanent basis.

At the dinner the first Perkin medal and a silver tea service will be presented to Sir William Perkin, and there will be addresses on the development of the coal tar industry and after-dinner speeches.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Smithsonian Institution was represented by Mr. S. F. Emmons at the International Geological Congress held in Mexico City from the sixth to the fourteenth of the present month and by Dr. Walter Hough at the fifteenth International Congress of Americanists, held in Quebec from the tenth to the fifteenth. Dr. Hough also represented the U. S. National Museum.

PROFESSOR WILHELM HITTORF, professor of physics at Münster, will be presented with a marble bust on the occasion of his jubilee, which will shortly be celebrated. Professor Hittorf has himself given 25,000 Marks for the scientific work in the Münster Academy.

DR. MAX TOEPLER, professor of physics at the Dresden Technological Institute, celebrated on September 7 his seventieth birthday.

DR. A. R. CROOK, for the past twelve years professor of mineralogy and economic geology at Northwestern University, has been appointed curator of the Illinois State Museum of Natural History at Springfield. During the past summer Professor Crook has visited museums of natural history in this country and abroad with a view to studying their methods of administration and installation.

DR. MAYNARD M. METCALF, professor of biology in the Woman's College in Baltimore since 1893, and now professor-elect of zoology in Oberlin College, has received the appointment to the Smithsonian seat in the Naples Zoological Station for the months of March and April, 1907. Dr. Stewart Paton, formerly of Johns Hopkins University, whom Dr. Metcalf succeeds at Naples, by extension of a former appointment, will occupy the Smithsonian seat for five months from the first of October of the present year. It is announced that the Smithsonian has decided to renew its lease of a table at the station for an additional term of three years from January 1, 1907, and that applications, which are acted on in order of receipt, may now be submitted. In view of the number of students who desire to avail themselves of this opportunity for study at Naples, a Smithsonian appointment is not approved for a longer period than six months, though in exceptional cases an extension may be asked for and granted, if such action does not interfere with the occupancy of other applicants.

THE first meeting of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society during 1906-07 was held September 11, at 8 P.M., in South Hall, University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Charles Keeler presided. On motion a nominating committee was appointed consisting of Professor Dresslar, Professor Fryer and Mrs. Dickson. The committee reported the following nominations for officers for 1906-07:

President—Charles Keeler.

First Vice-president—John Fryer.

Second Vice-president—W. F. Bade.

Treasurer—S. A. Barrett.

Secretary—A. L. Kroeber.

Councilors—Charles F. Lummis, W. C. Mitchell, Mrs. Thomas B. Bishop, John E. Matzke, C. Hart Merriam, E. J. Molera.

On motion the report of the committee was adopted, the nominees being thereby elected. Professor A. L. Kroeber thereupon gave an address on 'California Indian Myths and Songs,' illustrated by graphophone records.

We learn from *Nature* that the government of Cape Colony has placed a sum upon the