

Biology Teaching" in the *Proceedings* of the New York Science Teachers' Association for 1907. The writer of these notes would commend it to those young (and old) teachers of biology who think that the subject has value for its content only.

Two little pamphlets for students are Professor Wilcox's "Laboratory Guide to the Study of Elementary Botany," and Professor Clements's "Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota." The first is evidently intended for students in such schools as can yet make only rather limited use of the compound microscope and where the laboratory work is necessarily confined to gross anatomy and simple physiological experiments. It must prove useful for the class of students for which it is intended. The second booklet (of twenty-eight pages) succeeds by means of keys and brief descriptions in making it easy for any student of botany to make out the name and relationship of any tree or shrub in the state of Minnesota. Its helpfulness for all classes of botanical students is obvious at a glance.

An instructive and helpful paper for teachers and students of botany is Professor Ramaley's paper on "The Botanical Gardens of Ceylon" in the *Popular Science Monthly* for September, 1908. Eight half-tones from photographs help the readers to obtain a better idea of the rich vegetation of the island.

While not necessarily confined to botany, Mr. O. F. Cook's paper on "Methods and Causes of Evolution"¹ contains so much that bears upon botanical problems that it should be found in every botanist's library. It is a most significant fact that this was published as a contribution to agriculture! What would the farmers just before the civil war have thought if any one had suggested that in half a century they would be practising evolution according to Darwin!

Allied to the foregoing is the same author's paper on the "Reappearance of a Primitive Character in Cotton Hybrids,"² giving some

¹ Bull. 136, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. Agric.

² Circular 18, Bureau of Plant Industry.

individual results of experiments for the purpose of acclimatizing certain weevil-resistant varieties of cotton.

In January, 1905, Captain John Donnell Smith, of Baltimore, presented his herbarium and botanical library to the Smithsonian Institution. The former, consisting of more than 100,000 specimens, became a part of the National Herbarium. Now we have a catalogue of the library of 1,600 bound volumes,* which will be very helpful in giving exact titles of many rare books.

CHARLES E. BESSEY

SPECIAL ARTICLES

NOTE ON SOME NEW JERSEY FISHES

A YOUNG example of *Lactophrys triqueter* was taken at Grassy Sound, on September 18, 1904, and presented to me by Mr. R. M. Miller. This is the first instance of this species occurring in New Jersey waters. Dr. R. J. Phillips obtained an interesting collection at Corson's Inlet, among which were examples of *Anchovia brownii*, *Hyporhamphus unifasciatus*, *Trachinotus falcatus*, *Lagodon rhomboides*, *Bairdiella chrysura*, young *Micropogon undulatus*, *Stephanolepis hispidus*, *Myoxocephalus æneus*, *Rissola marginata* and *Ammodytes americanus*. The last was very abundant, and many examples of large size were found. An example of *Merluccius bilinearis* was secured at Ocean City, in Great Egg Harbor Bay, on July 26, by Mr. D. McCadden. In this connection I might mention that Mr. O. H. Brown secured an example of the four-toed salamander, *Hemidactylum scutatum*, at Cape May, on July 20, which is the first record of its occurrence in the lower half of the state.

HENRY W. FOWLER

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES,
PHILADELPHIA,

December 17, 1908

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE academy held its annual meeting Monday evening, December 21, 1908, at the Hotel Endicott,

* Contrib. U. S. National Herbarium, Vol. XII., Pt. 1.