

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.

about seventy-five members and their friends being in attendance.

The report of the recording secretary showed that during the year 1908 the academy had held eight business meetings and twenty-eight sectional meetings, at which ninety-six stated papers and four lectures had been presented, classified under fourteen branches of science; furthermore, that four public lectures by noted home and foreign scientists had been given at the American Museum of Natural History to the members of the academy and the affiliated societies and their friends. Attention was called to the preparations under way for the celebration, on February 12, 1909, of the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the semi-centennial anniversary of the appearance of "The Origin of Species," which promises to be an event of more than ordinary importance to the local scientific public. This report also stated that the membership of the academy was now 458 active members, including 127 fellows and 12 associate active members, a net loss of 42 active members during the year 1908.

According to the report of the corresponding secretary, the academy has lost by death during the past year the following honorary members: Lord Kelvin, elected in 1876; Professor Charles A. Young, elected in 1878; Professor Wolcott Gibbs, elected in 1899; Professor Wm. K. Brooks, elected in 1898; Professor Asaph Hall, elected in 1889; and the following corresponding members: Professor Daniel C. Gilman, elected in 1876; Professor Albert de Lapparent, elected in 1900; Professor Albert B. Prescott, elected in 1876; Colonel Aimé Laussedat, elected in 1890. There are now upon our rolls the names of forty-five honorary and 142 corresponding members. At the meeting three honorary members were elected, namely: Dr. Eduard Strasburger, professor of botany in the University of Bonn; Professor Kakichi Mitsukuri, director, College of Science, Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Wilhelm Ostwald, of the Royal Society of Natural Science, Leipzig, Germany; and the following active members were elected fellows: Dr. Charles P. Berkey and Dr. Charles L. Pollard.

The treasurer's report showed that the financial condition of the academy was satisfactory.

The officers of the academy desire to call the attention of the members to the fact that the academy has in its keeping two important funds, the income of which is available for the encouragement of scientific research. These are the Esther Herrman Building Fund and the John Strong

Newberry Fund. Grants are made to members of the academy or of the affiliated societies upon application to the council of the academy with the endorsement by the society of which the applicant is a member. During the past year more than one thousand dollars was paid out from the Esther Herrman Research Fund on account of such applications, and the reports presented by the grantees show the importance of the assistance granted. Income is now available for appropriation upon approved application.

The librarian's report showed that during the past year the library of the academy has received through exchange and donation 454 volumes, 32 separate and 1,863 numbers. The chief accessions were a gift of 40 volumes from La Société des Naturalistes de Varsovie and of 71 volumes from the Sociedad de Geographia, Lisbon. The books may be consulted by members and the public any week day between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 5 P.M., and members are urged to assist in extending the use of the library.

According to the editor's report, part 3 completing volume XVII. was distributed early in the year and parts 1 and 2 of volume XVIII. have been printed and distributed, while two parts of part 3 of volume XVIII. have been printed but not distributed. Part 1 of the latter volume was devoted to the records of the Linnæus celebration of May 23, 1907, including the addresses delivered on the occasion and the greetings received from sister organizations at home and abroad.

The annual election resulted in the choice of the following officers for the year 1909:

President—Charles F. Cox.

Vice-presidents—J. J. Stevenson, Frank M. Chapman, D. W. Hering and Maurice Fishberg.

Recording Secretary—Edmund Otis Hovey.

Corresponding Secretary—Hermon Carey Bumpus.

Treasurer—Emerson McMillin.

Librarian—Ralph W. Tower.

Editor—Edmund Otis Hovey.

Councilors (three years)—Franz Boas, Henry E. Crampton.

Finance Committee—Charles F. Cox, George F. Kunz and Frederic S. Lee.

After the business meeting, the members of the academy and their friends sat down together at the annual dinner, at the conclusion of which the president, Mr. Charles F. Cox, gave an address upon "Charles Darwin and the Mutation Theory."

E. O. HOVEY,
Recording Secretary