michellevyte (1889, *Comptes Rendus,* CVIII., 1128; "Minér. de la France," IV., 48), morinite (1891, *Bull. Soc. Min.,* XIV., 187; "Minér. de la France," IV., 539) pseudoboleite (1895), gonnardite (1896, "Minér. de la France," II., 279), ktypeite (1898), picrocrichtonite (1900, "Minér. de la France," III., 284), pseudochalcedonite (1900, "Minér. de la France," III., 159), grandidierite (1902, "Minér. de la France," IV., 670), giorgiosite (1905), georgiadesite (1907), palmierite (1907), plancheite (1908, "Minér. de la France," IV., 757), villiaumite (1908, "Minér. de la France," IV., 881), bityite (1908, "Minér. de la France," IV., 673), metacristobalite (1909, "Minér. de la France," III., 806).

GEORGE F. KUNZ

BOTANICAL NOTES

TWO NEW BOTANICAL JOURNALS

WITHIN the past few months two new botanical journals have appeared in this country, asking for recognition and support by botanists.

The first in point of time is the *American Fern Journal,* the first number of which appeared about the middle of last August. It is now announced to be the "official organ of the American Fern Society," and its place of publication is Port Richmond, N. Y. It is to be "devoted to the general study of ferns," and is to appear quarterly. The field of the new journal appears to be distinctly systematic in the old sense, and would seem to be intended to serve old-time collectors of ferns, and the private makers of fern herbaria. While the *Fern Journal* does not cover exactly the field already occupied by the *Fern Bulletin,* published by W. N. Clute, the latter being much less technical, it must be confessed that they are rather too nearly alike, and one is led to wonder whether there is room in this country for two journals devoted to such a small group of plants as the ferns. However, we may hope that after a period characterized by a "struggle for existence" there may be a "survival of the fittest." In the meantime let us keep up our subscriptions for both periodicals, hoping that the best that there is in each may be preserved in the "survival," which may be a "Journal-Bulletin."

The other journal—*Phytopathology*—is also an "official organ," having for this relation the American Phytopathological Society. It "is designed primarily as a channel of publication for the phytopathological contributions of the members of the society." The principal editors are Professor L. R. Jones, of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. C. L. Shear, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Professor H. H. Whetzel, of Cornell University. It is to appear bimonthly, and the subscription price is three dollars.

It is clearly to be a strictly scientific journal of plant pathology, having no popular leanings whatever. Its field has hitherto been wholly unoccupied, and there should be no question as to the support of the journal. It should be found on every botanist's table, and should be accessible to all students of plant pathology.

A PERIODICAL FOR MOSS STUDENTS

A NEW chapter is opened for *The Bryologist;* with the January, 1911, number it becomes the property of The Sullivant Moss Society, and its officers recently elected become the advisory board: President, Dr. Alexander W. Evans, Yale University; vice-president, Miss Caroline Coventry Haynes, Highlands, N. J.; secretary, Mr. N. L. T. Nelson, Des Moines College, Des Moines, Ia.; treasurer, Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, Brooklyn, N. Y. They have appointed Dr. A. J. Grout, as editor-in-chief, with associate editors as follows: Dr. George N. Best, Rosemont, N. J.; Dr. A. W. Evans, New Haven, Conn.; John M. Holzinger, Winona, Minn., and Professor Lincoln W. Riddle, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.

The Sullivant Moss Society has held seven most successful public meetings in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and plans to hold the eighth in the same connection at Washington, D. C., this coming December.

It will be noticed that the associate editors represent an eminent authority in the several

groups treated of in *The Bryologist,* namely, Dr. Best, the pleurocarpous mosses; Professor Holzinger, the acrocarpous mosses; Dr. Evans, the Hepaticae, and Professor Riddle, the lichens.

HOUGH'S LEAF-KEY TO THE TREES

MR. ROMEYN B. HOUGH has brought out a handy pocket manual which he calls a "Leaf Key to the Trees of the Northern States and Canada." The booklet is of such dimensions that it can be carried very easily in one's pocket, its dimensions being 4½ by 6 inches, and not over a quarter of an inch in thickness. In about thirty pages all of the common native trees from the Rocky Mountains eastward, and north of the latitude of North Carolina, are briefly characterized by means of keys which refer principally to their leaves. With this in hand the tyro ought to find no difficulty in finding the name of any native tree in the region named. It should be especially helpful to young foresters.

SHORT NOTES

A YEAR or so ago W. N. Clute brought out a little "Laboratory Botany" (Ginn) for use in high schools, which should have been noticed long ago. It has already commended itself to teachers as a most useful laboratory guide.

THE crown-gall of plants is discussed very fully and conclusively in Bulletin 213 of the Bureau of Plant Industry, of the United States Department of Agriculture. The authors, Erwin F. Smith, Nellie A. Brown and C. O. Townsend, find that *Bacterium tumefaciens* produces tumors upon many species of plants in widely separate parts of the natural system. Thus peach, apple, rose, quince, chestnut, grape, etc., when attacked by this organism develop the growths known by the name of "crown gall."

Parts III. and IV. of Oakes Ames's "Orchidaceae" continue to maintain the high standard set in the first and second parts. The books are not only of high scientific value to the botanist, but the printing and paper are superb, and when added to the wealth of artistic etchings constitute volumes that any artist might be glad to own. They form a notable addition to the literature of botany.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE POISONOUS EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THEIR ALCOHOLIC CONTENTS

SUCH a vast amount of investigation and discussion has been centered on the liquor problem during the last few years that it seems almost presumptuous to attempt to add any new information to the subject or even to emphasize a point which has been previously recognized but not thoroughly appreciated.

In the report of the investigations made by the sub-committee of the committee of fifty to investigate the liquor problem, Abel[1] states "That more concentrated alcoholic liquors or spirits are, from a practical point of view, the most toxic of all alcoholic beverages. If whiskey or cognac were always to be diluted with water until the percentage of alcohol was brought down to ten per cent., they would be no more toxic than wine of the same strength."

These statements would lead one to infer that if the alcoholic content of all beverages was reduced to the same percentage the toxicity of each beverage would be the same. If true, such a conclusion would greatly simplify the method of determining the relative harmfulness of the many kinds of alcoholic beverages.

Numerous investigators have subjected various living organisms to the influence of pure ethyl alcohol diluted with water and also to beverages which contained varying amounts of it. In general they have obtained definite results showing that alcohol in appreciable quantities is always injurious to living matter.

It is recognized that some species of living organisms are more resistant to the influence of alcohol than others, and also that some individuals of the same species are more resistant than other individuals, but if many indi-

[1] "Physiological Aspects of the Liquor Problem," 1903. A report by the sub-committee of the Committee of Fifty to investigate the liquor problem, edited by John S. Billings, New York.