

SCIENCE

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SOME OF THE NEXT STEPS IN BOTANICAL
SCIENCE¹

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WHEN one who has worked long in any field of science speaks before an audience such as this he is expected to say something about the condition of his branch of science when he began work with meager and poorly adapted apparatus, to contrast it with its greatly improved condition to-day, and to dwell with pride upon the finely equipped laboratories with costly apparatus especially designed for particular experiments, to be found by the twentieth century scientific student. And I must confess that the temptation to do so was one difficult to resist, for we who have grown old in years are fain to dwell upon the days of long ago with the garrulity which comes with gray heads and withering muscles. It has seemed to me wiser, however, that this evening we should look into the future rather than into the past, for in that direction lies the possibility of progress, and it is of progress that I wish to speak.

THE BOTANY OF YESTERDAY

Yet in order that we may properly orient ourselves with reference to the area covered by the science of botany to-day, we shall have to go back a few decades to understand what additions have been made to its territory during this period of expansion. For the shrewd observer can not avoid the conclusion that botany has shared with the world powers in a territorial growth which has extended its boundaries far beyond those known to the fathers, and

¹ Address of the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cleveland, December, 1912.