

from page 543 to page 673, presumably to cover the explanatory leaves facing the plates.

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Nature and Development of Plants. By CARLTON C. CURTIS, Professor of Botany in Columbia University. Illustrated. New York, Henry Holt & Company. 1914. Pp. vii + 506.

A few years ago it fell to the reviewer's lot to discuss in these columns the first edition of this excellent text, and it is with pleasure that he offers herewith his comments on its recent revision.

It is well that a book of this kind has met with that degree of appreciation and success which has warranted its third edition in so short a time. It is rare among our text-books of botany that the essential facts of the science are presented in a style at once so clear and attractive as to hold the attention of the casual reader, to say nothing of its acceptability to students. Too often is it the tendency among writers to kill, in the average student, all interest in a subject naturally engaging, by a dictionary style of composition and a pedantic devotion to technical terminology. Technical terms are well enough in their place, but their acquisition is not the end of botanical study, and to present the nature and development of plants accurately and in simple language, demands a keener appreciation of the facts and their relations, than it may require to clothe the subject in the diction of a specialist.

One of the points in which this book is especially to be commended is the effort of its author to direct attention to the economic bearings of the subject. While the deeper thinker has no difficulty in appreciating the practical value of pure science, so-called, the fact remains that most students are stimulated by a perception of the relation of this or that fact to human welfare, and the more the facts of such relation are emphasized, the less will botany have to contend for its just place in the academic program.

It is the aim of the author, as stated in the preface, that the mastery of this text shall exact strenuous effort on the part of the student, an excellent motive from the pedagogical standpoint, but an end which is better reached in the laboratory than elsewhere. Such a purpose would hardly be achieved in the present volume with its clear and simple style, unless it be in the mass and suggestiveness of its fact, which we take to be the author's intent.

The book before us is divided into two parts. The first deals with the plant as an organism, definite, vital, dynamic. In this the topics of photosynthesis, transpiration, absorption, growth, reproduction, etc., as well as the structure of the tissues concerned, are treated with special reference to the seed plant and introduces the significance of plant structures and life. Part two presents the subkingdoms of the plant world and their more common representatives, setting forth the principal features of relationship and evolution. The book should form the basis of a year's study, supplemented by lectures and laboratory work. The illustrations are excellent and well chosen.

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BOTANICAL NOTES

THE ANNIVERSARY OF A GREAT GARDEN

SEVERAL months ago the botanists of the world were asked to come to St. Louis about the middle of October to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization of the board of trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden. And in planning the celebration those in charge wisely provided for a dignified program of scientific papers of notable merit, rather than for a series of congratulatory addresses. Of course there were some congratulations, but these were confined to the after-dinner speeches, at the close of the anniversary exercises. So there was a minimum of inane congratulations, and a maximum of notably meritorious botanical papers. The example of the managers of this program is commended to other managers of anniversary exercises.

Here it should be remembered that Henry