

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1916

BOTANY AND ITS ECONOMIC APPLICATIONS¹

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SINCE our last meeting the Great War has continued to hold chief place in our lives and thoughts, and in various ways, and to a greater or less degree, has influenced our work. In the case of many botany has had for the time being to be set aside, while others have been able to devote only a part of their time to scientific work. On the other hand, it is gratifying to note that some have been able to render helpful service on lines more or less directly connected with their own science. The trained botanist has shown that he may be an eminently adaptable person, capable, after short preparation on special lines, of taking up positions involving scientific investigation of the highest importance from the standpoints of medicine and hygiene.

We have to regret the loss of a promising young Cambridge botanist, Alfred Stanley Marsh, who has made the supreme sacrifice for his country. Happily, in other cases lives have been spared and we are able to welcome their return to the service of botany.

In common with our fellow-botanists throughout the world, we have learned with sorrow of the death of one of the kindest and most versatile exponents of the science, Count Solms Laubach, whom we have welcomed in years past as a guest of our section.

May I also refer to the recognition recently given by the Royal Society to the

¹ Address of the president of the Botanical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Section K, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1916.