

SCIENCE

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AGRICULTURAL BOTANY IN SECONDARY EDUCATION¹

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THE advance of physical science during the past century, and the application of the results gained therein to industry, and especially to the means of transportation and intercommunication, have made desirable and available, areas of the earth's surface hitherto-unsought or inaccessible. Because of the development of mechanical agencies through science, the present age, more than any other, is characterized as an age of economic exploitation. The freedom and mystery of the older earth are departing, and soon will be gone forever. Never again will there be another Odyssey. The spirit of the new Age of Steel is over us—the spirit of exploitative and capitalized industry, that is reaching with magnificent ease out to the remotest confines of the planet, uncovering all the secret places, and blazing plain bare trails athwart the earth, straight to the very capitals of the ancient fairylands of geography. What mystery is there left in Peking or Timbuktu, in Samarkand or Candahar? To commerce, the names of the nations are but words in a game; their habitations but the squares of red and black on the chess board upon which the game is played; their remoteness a mere relativity of cost of communication.

In a sense that is far from Emerson's this spirit is embodied in the words:

Far or forgot to me is near,
Shadow and sunlight are the same,
The hidden gods to me appear,
And one to me are shame and fame.

The first exploitation of new territories has always been made by adventurers driven by the primitive Wanderlust; by men impatient of sitting in sodden security, but ever eager

¹ Address before the Iota Chapter, Sigma Xi, University of Kansas.