plants associated with his name, is another of the portraits in this collection. Lithographs of Sir Joseph and his father Sir William Hooker are also here.

A mezzotint engraving of Humboldt, seated in his ornamental shirtsleeves under a banana palm, with what might be mistaken to be an iceberg in the offing, is another composition which leads one to question the value of the picture as portraiture, though there can be no question of its value as a print. A beautiful engraved portrait of Linnaeus, dated 1779, is one of the treasures of the collection.

It is not necessary to list these pictures, but one word may be said as to how they have been accumulated. In the catalogues of second-hand book dealers one finds lists of portraits, some of which are undesirable because of inferior workmanship or for other reasons. In these lists one occasionally finds fine things, and some of our best pictures have been secured from second-hand book dealers. On the other hand, the interest of friends or of institutions has resulted in our getting other portraits not obtainable by purchase. Thus, we have an artist proof wood-engraving of Asa Gray, by Kruel, the gift of the Gray Herbarium. We have a very fine photograph of W. T. Sedgwick and an engraved portrait of Harvey which Sedgwick himself bought at Oxford, both of which were given to us by his widow.

Attention is called to this collection now because of our conviction that the presentation of face and features of the men who make science gives to it a human quality which those who are beginning to devote themselves to it ought not to miss; and in the second place, to invite additional contributions to a collection the value of which is already established. I should be very glad to receive correspondence relative to portraits of other eminent naturalists and to welcome gifts should any follow.

GEORGE J. PEIRCE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS FOR EUROPEAN LIBRARIES

THE American Library Association, through one of its committees, is endeavoring to supply to European libraries, unable under present conditions to purchase in America, some of the American books and periodicals which are so sorely needed.

Files of SCIENCE, covering the years since 1914, are in great demand and our committee can use to the very best advantage at least twenty sets. If any of your subscribers who have files that they are willing to contribute for this purpose will send them to me, they will be doing a great service, not only to their European colleagues, but to the interests of science in general.

Files of almost any other scientific journal are also welcome.

The committee will be glad to pay express charges on anything that is sent to them.

Parcels should be addressed, *Princeton University Library (Books for Europe) Princeton, N. J.*

JAMES THAYER GEROULD,
*For the Committee*

## GRANTS FROM THE RUMFORD COMMITTEE

As chairman of the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences I wish to direct attention to the decision of the committee by which the term "light" is considered to include the spectral region of the x-rays.

Under this interpretation the field in which grants may be made from the funds at the disposal of the committee is extended to include researches in x-rays.

THEODORE LYMAN
JEFFERSON PHYSICAL LABORATORY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Botany: Principles and Problems.* By EDMUND W. SINNOTT. Pp. xix + 385. Figs. 240. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1923.

TEXT-BOOKS in science fall naturally into two classes as to authorship—those whose authors are primarily interested in the science, and those whose authors are also interested in the teaching of the subject and in its use as an educational discipline. Sinnott's new text falls into the latter class. Authoritative and clearly presented from the standpoint of modern botany, it is very obviously a product of successful classroom and laboratory experience with college classes.

The book "endeavors to set forth somewhat briefly and concisely the more important facts concerning the morphology, physiology and classification of plants, and to provide a body of problem material which may be of assistance in stimulating thought and in promoting class discussion." Teachers, especially young teachers and those of more experience but burdened with a heavy schedule of classes, will welcome the "Questions for thought and discussion" and the "Reference problems" given at the end of each chapter. Students will also benefit thereby. Some one has well said that education in any given subject does not consist so much in information as in learning how to think in that subject. The organization of Professor Sinnott's text is well calculated to accomplish both results.

Of seventeen chapters, the first two are introductory in nature, the third deals with the soil and its importance to plants, and the next three with the root