phenomenon has ever been published, although it has been several times referred to by travelers, who have ventured various crude guesses at its cause, varying from that commonest catch-all of the ignorant, "electricity," to the whistling of the wings of ducks and the noise of the "steamboat geyser." It seems to me to belong to the class of aerial echoes, but even on that supposition I can not account for the origin of the sound.

I am surprised that it has not been studied and understood before now and I hope that some of the many scientific men who doubtless visit the park every year may find in it an attractive problem for vacation study.

STEPHEN A. FORBES
STATE NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY DIVISION,
URBANA, ILLINOIS

VARIATIONS IN COLORS OF FLOWERS

I HAVE noticed for a good many years considerable variation in the color in the flowers of many of our native plants. The plum is now in full bloom. Within a few hundred feet of here there is a beautiful specimen along the roadside that the axe has spared so far. It has a decided shell-pink color, and is one of the finest native plum trees I have ever seen. A little further on, on the edge of the woods, is another plum tree with cream-colored flowers, and not very far from this tree one of pink color, almost the color of the peach blossom. I noticed recently near Green Bay, Wisconsin, also a plum tree of decided pink, but not as pronounced as the one mentioned above. Then we have those that are pure white and others with a light grey touch.

Our western crab apple, Pyrus Ioensis, usually shell pink, is very often found in full pink. There are some trees here of beautiful rose color, the finest rose I have ever seen amongst flowers.

In a ravine or blow-out in the Dune Country near Grand Branch, Michigan, the majority of flowering dogwood, Cornus Florida, are pink or rose, and I have been told that a few miles from there, there is another colony of the pink-flowering dogwood.

On a recent trip to Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee I did not notice a single pink-flowering dogwood except those in the gardens purchased from nurseries. Are these varieties in colors of the flowers due to natural hybridization or difference in soil? The plums I have mentioned all grew in clay, the pink dogwoods in sand, the dogwoods in Kentucky and Tennessee in clay or stony land. Whatever the cause, this natural variation gives the nurseryman a chance for a greater color variation for the gardens, and it seems to me this will in time partly settle the grievance amongst many of our people against the embargo. Perhaps the embargo is a good thing from more than one standpoint. It will give us a chance to look into native land and perhaps discover new beauty for our gardens, making them typical American.

JENS JENSEN
RAVINIA, ILLINOIS

ZYGOPHYLLUM FABAGO IN THE UNITED STATES

IN SCIENCE for June 25, 1926, the Syrian bean caper, Zygophyllum Fabago, which had been found at Mesilla Park, New Mexico, January, 1925, was given as a plant new to the United States. Mr. J. C. Buchheister, of New York City, found a few plants of this Zygophyllum on Port Morris ballast grounds, June 10, 1900. He sent specimens to Dr. J. N. Rose, who said it had not been reported before from the United States. I collected it also at Port Morris on Long Island Sound, Bronx Borough, New York City, June 5th and July 8th, 1901. All these collections are in the herbarium at Cornell University. Mr. Norman Taylor in his Flora of the Vicinity of New York, says that, "Tribulus terrestris L. and Zygophyllum Fabago L. have both been collected near the metropolis. They are very doubtfully established." The ballast grounds at Port Morris must have been destroyed and built over many years ago.

STEWART H. BURNHAM
DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Bacterial Infection with Special Reference to Dental Practice. By J. L. APPLETON. Published by Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1925.

THE dental profession and others interested in the microbiology of the mouth have waited long for some one to do what Professor Appleton has done. But "Bacterial Infection with Special Reference to Dental Practice" will prove valuable, not only to those who are especially interested in oral infections, but also to physicians, bacteriologists and immunologists. It is notable among recent new text-books in bacteriology for its original discussions and for its excellent up-to-date analysis of the literature.

The book is divided into three parts. Part I deals with bacteria, their morphology, physiology and classification. There is a separate chapter on the relation of bacterial growth to oxygen supply and another on chemical disinfectants, in both of which emphasis is given to the peculiar problems connected with oral hygiene. One outstanding feature is the compilation of data on limiting and optimal hydrogen-ion concentrations of various bacteria; another is the author's treatment of sterilization by heat. Both Migula's classification (modified from Chester) and Bergey's classification are summarized, but while the author is