

*cygnonum*, Nees., a native of Australia and New Zealand. This species was reported only twice previously on March 18, 1917, near San Diego, California, and on September 5, 1917, on a wool-waste dump at North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

An interesting observation regarding the blooming of this species was that while the flowers of *E. cicutarium* were withered and fallen by eight or eight-thirty o'clock on bright mornings, the flowers of *E. cygnonum* were only half opened at that time and they persisted till about one o'clock in full sunshine.

C. S. POMEROY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

### PROTECTION OF THE TUMION IN FLORIDA

OUR national monuments should be protected before it is too late. Lack of a state forestry policy and the rapid disappearance of so much natural beauty in many states are already causing much alarm. Beautiful sights along lakes and mountains are denuded, and our immense forests are destroyed for the lumber trade, without any attempt to renew them on a technical basis. These facts are known throughout the world. Quite recently the Count of Schwerin and Freiherr von Thielmann, both in Berlin, have drawn attention to this fact to foresters and scientists in European countries. They stressed the disappearance of the beautiful forests in the United States.

It becomes of international importance when certain forest species become extinct. Such a forest is found along the bluffs on the east bank of the Apalachicola River from Chattahoochee to Bristol in the northwestern part of Florida. Along a distance of hardly seven miles we find some extremely rare trees, namely, *Tumion taxifolium* Greene and *Taxus floridana* Chapm. Both are coniferous trees; the former reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet and the latter becomes rarely 25 feet high. No doubt both are relicts of ages long past, when a considerable part of the country was covered with these and perhaps other related species.

When the glacial periods came over a large portion of this country and over Europe and Asia, the geographical distribution of these plants was gradually pushed back to some protected and favorable areas along the Apalachicola River. These rare trees are generally used in this region as Christmas trees, thus hastening their disappearance in their natural environment.

I urgently ask those who are interested in the rare forest flora of that small area along the Apalachicola River to have this region protected as a national

park. It will be of great benefit to science to have this place as a natural monument that will be cared for throughout the ages. If no immediate steps are taken but a very few years will elapse before that section will be completely denuded of all its natural beauty.

The United States, when we consider its large area, is not too rich in protected natural monuments nor in national parks. Its forest destruction goes on day by day without proper management. We could not do better than to repeat the words of Baron Ferdinand von Müller: "I regard the forest as a heritage given to us by nature, not for spoil or to devastate, but to be wisely used, reverently honored and carefully maintained."

J. C. TH. UPHOF

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

### POLEMONIUM SEEDS

DURING some years I have been engaged in genetical work on the genus *Polemonium* (Polemoniaceae) which seems well fitted for studies of that kind. By means of the seed catalogues of the Botanical Gardens of the northern hemisphere I have got numerous collections of seeds supposed to represent a rather large number of species, but growing experiments showed that under the many names really only few species were present, the identifications in many cases being erroneous.

As most of the species occur in North America it is difficult for a European botanist to get seeds from wild-growing specimens, and therefore, I ask American botanists to help me by collecting seeds of species which they may come across and send them to me. I shall be very grateful for such assistance.

C. H. OSTENFELD

BOTANICAL GARDENS,  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Elements of Astronomy*. By E. A. FATH. VIII + 307 pp., 191 figures. McGraw-Hill Book Co., N. Y. Price, \$3.00. 1926.

And still they gazed and still their wonder grew,  
That one small head could carry all he knew.

THE reader of Professor Fath's "Elements of Astronomy" is left in much the same frame of mind as were the rustics of the "Deserted Village" after contemplating their schoolmaster. In a book of slightly less than three hundred pages of text we find the elements of practically everything that had been accomplished in astronomy up to the end of 1925. The book should receive a hearty welcome from teach-