

reprint of his Collection towards a Materia Medica, in Lloyd's Bulletin, No. 1, in 1900. The article shows other omissions of noteworthy facts. For example, no mention is made of the honor bestowed upon Barton by Nuttall in naming a genus of plants "Bartonia." This name has been dropped, as Muhlenberg had given the name Bartonia to another genus and Nuttall's Bartonias are now Mentzelias. Barton's aid to both Pursh and Nuttall is a significant fact in the history of American botany. Barton himself took credit for the fact; see Lloyd's Bulletin, No. 1, page 3. A reference to Barton's connection with William Bartram, referred to in the article on Bartram, should certainly have been included.

A print of one portrait of Barton is mentioned, but the much more accessible reprint in *Popular Science Monthly* for 1896 (vol. 48) is not mentioned.

The bibliography is, of necessity, brief, but it might very properly have included a reference to the article in the *Popular Science Monthly*, (vol. 48: 834-40); possibly also to the reprint of the sketch of W. P. C. Barton, in his "Revised Elements of Botany," in 1836.

Some other articles in the volume are subject to similar criticism. Let this instance of Barton stand as an example. If it be urged that space is limited, it might be answered that at least the facts here mentioned are more significant than some of those in-

cluded. Nothing should be omitted from the Barton sketch as it is printed, but a little condensation would have permitted the inclusion of everything here suggested.

The omission of (*q.v.*) after the name of T. P. Barton is, of course, only an oversight. Last of all, permit a query of fact: In the article on Jacob Bigelow, should it not be B. S. Barton, not W. P. C. Barton, under whom Bigelow studied?

WILLIAM H. POWERS

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PROFESSOR CONN AND THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE

IN the note in *SCIENCE* on the celebration of the conclusion of the first quarter century of the work of the Carnegie Institution at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, no mention is made of the previous work carried on there by the late Professor Conn under the auspices of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

I had the very great pleasure of working under his direction there during the summer of 1892 when I was a medical student, and he showed a remarkable ability to interest his students in personal research and observation.

LOUIS C. AGER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO DR. MERRILL

DR. GEORGE PERKINS MERRILL, head curator of geology in the U. S. National Museum, was tendered a dinner on Friday evening, May 31, 1929, at the Cosmos Club in Washington, by friends and colleagues from scientific circles. The dinner was given in honor of Dr. Merrill's seventy-fifth birthday.

Dr. Merrill was born at Auburn, Maine, May 31, 1854, but for half a century has been a resident of Washington where he has been connected with the Smithsonian Institution. During this time Dr. Merrill has won admiration and high esteem from his many friends and acquaintances in scientific and social spheres. His career is indicated by his versatility. He is a teacher, a critic, a public speaker, an executive and a scientist. During his long and active life, Dr. Merrill has done much for the advancement of science, among his many achievements being several works which stand out as monuments, namely, "Stones for Building and Decoration," "Rockweathering and Soils," "The First One Hundred Years of American Geology," and his many highly enlightening works on meteorites, for which, in 1922, he was awarded the J. Lawrence Smith medal by the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Merrill received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Maine. In 1917 the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon him by George Washington University, where he had been professor of geology and mineralogy from 1893 to 1915. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Geological Society of America, Washington Academy of Sciences, American Philosophical Society, and others.

The committee on arrangements for the dinner was composed of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, chairman, Dr. Marcus Benjamin and Dr. Paul Bartsch. Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian, presided. The speakers of the evening were as follows.

Dr. Marcus Benjamin, editor, U. S. National Museum, gave the general report of the committee, and concluded his remarks as follows:

In a few years the Smithsonian will celebrate its centenary, and I can not but believe that when that event occurs, there will be those who will trace the history of that great institution and who will have much to say about the work of the eminent Henry, and they will review the valuable contributions made by the distinguished Baird. Those who are living in that day will learn more