Rheum, and to this Arabian rhubarb the species name *Rheum ribes,* in recognition of its ancient Arabic name, and to the currants he gave the genus name Ribes.

An excellent account of *Rheum ribes* was published by Desfontaines in 1803 in Annales du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (volume 2, pages 261 to 268, plate 49) and a well-executed colored illustration is given in Curtis, *Botanical Magazine,* 1898, plate 7591.

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FAULTING IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

THE age and origin of the extensive faulting along the southern edge of the Adirondacks in the Mohawk Valley has long been a problem to investigators. It was with the object of obtaining information which might lead to a solution of this problem that the writer spent portions of the summers of 1930 and 1931 in geologic investigation of this area.

The displacements are high-angle normal faults trending generally north northeast—south southwest and cutting pre-Cambrian and lower Paleozoic formations. Most of the faults are upthrown on the western side with the amount of displacement increasing to the northward toward the Adirondacks, but dying out rapidly a few miles south of the Mohawk River.

Since the faults are high-angle (over 80°) with the hanging wall invariably downthrown, they imply tensional stresses and hence are to be correlated with periods of relaxation which usually follow the compressive phases of mountain deformations. That the faults are younger than the Taconic folding is evidenced by their displacing of not merely the Schenectady beds, which are believed to have been deposited during the compressive phase of this deformation, but of the even younger Utica shale. The fact that the faults die out to the south argues for a primary relationship to the Adirondack region. In addition, their proximity to areas to the east which show distinct folding and thrusting as a result of the Taconic revolution bears out the conclusion that the tensional stresses of the period of relaxation following this deformation were responsible for the initiation of this faulting.

During the Taconic disturbance, the forces of compression in the sedimentary troughs were relieved by folding and thrusting. In the much more resistant pre-Cambrian rocks of the Adirondacks, however, these stresses were resolved so that the eastern part of the massif was uplifted rather than folded and thrust-faulted. The greatest uplift very likely took place northward from the Mohawk Valley and away from the area of thicker sediments. After the Taconic compression had ceased, relaxational movements began, and the east and south sides of the Adirondack area were cut up by normal faults. Most relaxation occurred where the preceding compression had caused greatest uplift, and consequently the throws of these faults increase to the north. Subsequent revolutions may well have caused additional adjustments along these faults.

More than twenty-five of these faults have been mapped in detail, and it is expected that further information regarding them will be published in the near future.

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NORTH AMERICAN FISH-HOOKS

AN ethnographical survey of fish-hooks in North America made by the present writer raises an important question as to the origin of barbed hooks. Until now it has been conjectured that such hooks were introduced among the American natives by European traders.

In different museum collections there are several barbed hooks from the Aleutian Islands and from California, which are of undoubted antiquity. Those from the northwest coast are regularly barbed, whereas the Californian specimens are barbed on the outside.

From a study of these hooks I have come to the conclusion that barbs on fish-hooks might have been an aboriginal invention and that the possible line of distribution was that after the introduction into Alaska from Asia, a branching out in two directions took place—one towards the northeast, extending across the Canadian arctic shores as far as Greenland, and the other almost directly south over Yukon, British Columbia and Washington to Southern California. This is also in accordance with what we know of the migration of the peoples in the North American continent.

This possibility has so far been neglected, and it seems to me that ethnographers and archeologists in the field would do well to bear this in mind.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE fall meeting of the executive committee was held in Washington, D. C., on October 27, 1935, at the Cosmos Club, with the following members present: Drs. Cattell, Caldwell, Compton, Conklin, Curtiss, Livingston, McKinley, Ward, Wilson and Woods.