An independent forest seed laboratory might well be located at one of the existing forest experiment stations or at the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin.

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A BIT OF ILL-CONSIDERED CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

FOR some obscure reason, when bills are being framed for submission to legislative bodies, expert advice as to plant names is usually not obtained. Every few years some organization or other sends a bill to Congress to make a certain plant the national flower of the United States, and in every case in which a copy of such a bill has come to the attention of the writer, the scientific name of a foreign plant has been attached. Thus the columbine bill specified *Aquilegia vulgaris,* which is the European species; and the daisy bill *Bellis perennis,* the English daisy. Fortunately all such bills have been referred to the Committee on Library and have never been reported out.

The states have not fared quite so well, however. Not only have several of them designated as state flowers weeds introduced from other countries, but one, Minnesota, once officially selected for its emblem *Cypripedium calceolus,* the European lady-slipper, which does not grow in that state, or, for that matter, in any part of the United States.

Conservationists have now started similar activities. On May 18, 1935, the Senate and General Assembly of the state of New Jersey enacted that "It shall be unlawful to take for the purpose of sale, sell, or expose for sale, any wild *solanum dulcamara,* commonly known as bittersweet. . . ." Actually the plant designated is a weed of waste places, the destruction of which should be encouraged because it harbors potato-beetles and other pests; and it wilts too quickly for any one to bother to sell it anyway. Had the backers of this legislation only sought a little expert advice, they would have learned that the name of the plant they really wanted to protect was *Celastrus scandens.*

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

JOINT GEOLOGICAL AND PREHISTORIC STUDIES OF THE LATE CENOZOIC IN INDIA

Two previous expeditions to the Northwest-Himalaya had given de Terra sufficient geological data to show that Kashmir and the adjoining plains of the Punjab would yield important information on the relationship of glaciations and crustal movements to early man and his cultures. Scattered finds of some Paleolithic artifacts and evidences for Pleistocene and subrecent mountain uplifts which he had collected in 1932 seemed promising enough as to warrant a special study of this subject.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington and the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia most generously granted most of the funds necessary for carrying out a program of research in which several institutions cooperated. Foremost amongst these was the Royal Society and Cambridge University, who enabled Paterson to collaborate, and Yale University. The Geological Survey of India, by kindness of its directors, Sir Leigh Fermor and Dr. A. M. Heron, lent the valuable assistance of Mr. N. K. N. Aiyengar, whose task was not only to gather additional fossil material of the Siwalik fauna, but especially to collect fossil primate remains. The expedition leader asked Dr. P. Teilhard de Chardin, of the Cenozoic Research Laboratory in Peiping, to participate, and his association, which lasted shortly over three months, was of the greatest assistance. Mr. D. Sen, of Calcutta University, acted as field assistant, and temporarily Mr. H. J. H. Drummond and Mr. Krishnaswami associated themselves with our party.

Naturally the investigations had to be based on a careful stratigraphy of the Pleistocene. The glacial cycle in Kashmir, which, in a general way, had previously been recognized by Giotto Dainelli, provided an ideal means by which it was possible to work out a standard sequence of geological events for the mountainous tract. Such data could then be used in correlating the late and post-Siwalik formations of the adjoining foothills and plains with the glacial and interglacial deposits in the north. This in turn would enable us to date any prehistoric cultures found *in situ,* and also to check the stratigraphical results thus gained against the paleontological records on which had previously been based the stratigraphy and age of the Siwalik formations.

The work in Kashmir was carried out in this way, that Paterson undertook a survey on the Himalayan slope of the Kashmir basin, and in the foothills of Poonch, while de Terra studied the basin filling and the southern flank along the Pir Panjal down to the plains at Jammu. Pleistocene geology centers here around the glacial cycle. Its evidences were found in the morphology of the glaciated valleys and in the sedimentary records of both glacial and interglacial stages.