is significant that the author entirely omitted all of the hawthorns (*Crataegus*), apparently regarding the task of disentangling them as quite hopeless. Localities are given, and many notes are quoted from various state reports. Twenty-five of the species are illustrated by cuts borrowed from Sargent's "Manual of the Trees of North America."

THE GENUS CRATAEGUS IN AMERICA

Under this title, in the August number of the *Journal of Botany,* Professor Sargent publishes an interesting statement in regard to the new species of *Crataegus* (hawthorns), in which he refers to the small number known to Torrey and Gray (about fourteen), and says that some years ago it was noticed that trees grown from seeds from different parts of the country differed from the recorded descriptions in certain particulars. From this came a careful study of the genus in several states, the result being that about "five hundred species" have been described in the last eight years. "It is not surprising," he says, "that botanists, looking at the genus through the eyes of Torrey and Gray, or reaching their conclusions from the study of the scanty and generally incomplete material found in herbaria, have regarded the makers of all these species with pity, and have tried to throw ridicule on this investigation and its results." We are assured, however, that to those persons who engage in a study of these plants in the field "the fact is soon apparent that the genus contains many very distinct forms, whether these are to be called species or not."

Following this is a discussion of the groups (20) into which the species naturally fall, with notes on their geographical distribution. The study of the genus, as every one knows who has done anything with the species, is beset by many difficulties. Flowering specimens must be collected in the spring and fruiting specimens in the autumn, and since in many cases the trees look much alike, they must be marked carefully in order to avoid mistakes. After this must come the test through cultivation, of which a beginning has been made. On the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum nearly twenty-five hundred lots of *Crataegus* seeds have been planted, so that comparisons may be made of the seedlings with the trees from which they were derived in order "to determine the value of the field-work which has been done in this genus."

That the end is not yet in the matter of new species is evident from this sentence: "In every township of half a dozen states it is more than probable that forms exist which differ from those that have already been described, and many years will be needed to elucidate the characters and distribution of the genus in this country."

PHILIPPINE BOTANY

In the *Philippine Journal of Science,* under its new management, whereby the botanical articles constitute a separate series, there have appeared three numbers, namely, those for January, April and June. These have included articles as follows: "The Comparative Ecology of the San Ramon *Polypodiaceae,*" by E. B. Copeland; "The *Cyperaceae* of the Philippines," by C. B. Clarke; "The Occurrence of *Antiaris* in the Philippines," by E. D. Merrill; "Philippine Myxogastres," by George Massee; "*Cibotium baranetz* and related Forms," by H. Christ; "Pteridophyta Halconenses," by E. B. Copeland; "Spiciligium filicum Philippinensium," by H. Christ; "The Philippine Species of *Dryopteris,*" by H. Christ; "Notes on Philippine Palms, I.," by O. Beccari; "Index to Philippine Botanical Literature," by E. D. Merrill. The last-named paper is mainly an index to *recent* literature, and is quite evidently supplementary to Tavera's "Biblioteca Filipina," published in 1903 by the Library of Congress.

Charles E. Bessey
The University of Nebraska

EXPEDITIONS OF THE BERLIN ETHNOGRAPHICAL MUSEUM

The Ethnographical Museum of Berlin is organizing a number of important expeditions. Dr. Czekanowsky is going to visit the region of the Victoria Nyanza for the purpose of investigating the pygmy tribes of that area,

the expenses of this expedition being largely defrayed by Duke Adolf of Mecklenburg. Dr. Ankermann, assistant director of the museum, is preparing for a visit to the northwestern part of the Cameroons. The museum possesses large collections from this district, which were obtained on one of the military expeditions against the natives of the interior; consequently little is known regarding the material. Scientific studies on the material and on related anthropological questions will be carried on by Dr. Ankermann. A third expedition, organized with the support of the secretary of the navy, is under the leadership of Dr. Stephan, who will be accompanied by Mr. Edgar Walden and Dr. Otto Schlaginhaufen, whose field of work will be German New Guinea, New Britain and New Ireland. This expedition will be accompanied by a photographer, Mr. Richard Schilling. Still another expedition is directed towards the investigation of Central America. This work will be in charge of Dr. Walter Lehmann, who expects to spend two years among the natives of Costa Rica and other Central American states. Two other expeditions of the museum have just come to a close—the one conducted by Dr. Theodor Preuss, who has spent two years among the Cora and Huichol Indians in northwestern Mexico; the other, by Professor Seler, who has just returned from a year's investigations in various parts of Mexico.

THE SAN DIEGO MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

THE city authorities and citizens of San Diego, California, have recently shown their interest in the San Diego Marine Biological Station in a very substantial way. It became obvious some months ago that the La Jolla Park, already given by the city for the use of the station, containing, as it does, less than four acres, was too small to permit the carrying out of the larger plans of the benefactors of the station, Miss E. B. Scripps and Mr. E. W. Scripps. Through a peculiar circumstance in its history the city is a large land owner. A pueblo lot of about 160 acres, having a full half mile of ocean front, was found to afford the most favorable site for the station. Under its organic law the city can not give away any of its public lands; it can only sell them at public auction to the highest bidder. An ordinance was consequently passed by the common council providing for the sale of this piece of land, it being understood both by the city officials and the citizens that the sale was for the purpose of giving the Biological Association a chance to buy the land at a minimum price. No other bidder appeared at the auction, and the association thus secured for $1,000 an unconditioned title to a tract of land with a present market value many times what was paid for it.

The *Alexander Agassiz,* the new boat of the San Diego Marine Biological Association, was recently launched from the Jensen yards in San Diego. The craft was designed expressly for the work of the station. She is an auxiliary, "ketch-rigged," center-board boat, with twin propellers driven by gasoline engines of 25 horse power each. Her length is 75 feet over all. She is broad, 20-foot beam, and low. Without centerboard her draft is four feet. She is expected to dredge and trawl to a depth of 1,000 fathoms, at least.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

BY the act of the last legislature, the professor of geology at the State University of Colorado became also, by virtue of his office, the state geologist. $5,000 is appropriated annually for this service. Professor Russell D. George, the new state geologist, is making his survey this summer, accompanied by Ralph D. Crawford, the instructor of the department, in the Poudre Valley region and in Routt County.

EDWIN G. DEXTER, A.M. (Brown, '92), Ph.D. (Columbia, '99), since 1900 professor of education in the University of Illinois, and since 1905 director of the School of Education, has been appointed commissioner of education in Porto Rico, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Roland P. Falkener.

PROFESSOR WILHELM STUMPF, the psychologist, has been elected rector of the University of Berlin.