

# SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1917

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE MARINE ALGÆ<sup>1</sup>

IN connection with some work I am attempting along the line of geographical distribution, it has become desirable to make some sort of a survey of the entire literature of the marine algæ, to classify it and to note the influence of various writers in developing the different lines of geographical study. The progress of the knowledge of the marine algæ has been slow in comparison with that of most other groups and the progress of our knowledge of the geographical distribution has been slower still. Much of this is due to the comparatively limited access to living material, the difficulties of collection, and the lack of any extensive economic value.

In attempting to arrange the literature, as indicating the progress of thought and development, it has seemed best to separate the lines of work formally, and somewhat arbitrarily, into several more or less distinct, yet necessarily overlapping and intertwined groups of subjects. The subjects finally selected as bearing either directly or secondarily on geographical distribution are five, viz., taxonomy, morphology and development, floristics, physiology and geographical distribution. It is, of necessity, an impossible matter to segregate all the literature and arrange it definitely under one or another of these groups. Certain writers have written along two or more of these lines and in the later literature, particularly, several lines of thought and

<sup>1</sup> Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section G, Botany, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York, December 27, 1916.