

will confer a great favor by sending copies of their papers to the Gray Herbarium as soon after publication as possible. The result will be an early indexing of the novelties and incidentally a wider publicity for the papers themselves, thus adding much to their usefulness and prompt scientific recognition. It may be pointed out that such cooperation on the part of individual authors will contribute effectively to their mutual convenience.

A few words may here be said on the care and use of the Card Index. When received by subscribers each issue has its cards in alphabetic order, but then has to be incorporated into the index as a whole. This process is one which requires close attention, for not only should the alphabetizing be exact, but much care should be taken to remove from the index all those cards which are being replaced. These are of two kinds: (1) those which have been found defective and are to be replaced by the cards definitely labeled "corrected reprint," (2) those cards which are to be replaced by others furnishing not merely the same information, but one or more added synonymic cross-references.

To keep the index as accurate, clear and compact as possible, it is highly essential to remove promptly and permanently these cards which have been corrected or superseded. So rapid is the growth of synonymy and so frequently do transfers occur that the cards which have to be reprinted to show these matters become very numerous. The removal of cards replaced for these causes reduces the bulk of the index as a whole by about 9 per cent., an element to be taken into account in its compactness, convenience and

the lessened drawer space needful for its setting up.

To insure against slip or error, it is wise to preserve, in a separate place and at least for some years, all cards thus taken out. If stored in alphabetic sequence these removed cards may at any time be subsequently consulted if question arises whether some of them may not have been taken out accidentally and by error.

In any form of revisional or monographic work upon a group of plants, the index is immediately found to be invaluable. It not only serves to indicate the recently published species of the group, but, what is accomplished by no other single source of information, a list of the newly published propositions in the subspecific categories. Furthermore, it furnishes immediate clues to the recent literature dealing with the groups themselves. In classificatory papers very few of extent or significance fail to put forth some description of plant novelties or some correction of plant names. The Card Index, by recording such novelties and transfers, thus becomes, incidentally, an admirable subject index for the systematic botanist and covers a high percentage of the literature important to his activities.

Issues 1 to 55 (1894-1912) were printed by H. N. Patterson, of Oquawka, Illinois, at that time well known as a skilful printer of botanical labels, lists, etc. From issue 56 to date the Card Index has been printed, alphabetized and mailed by the Library Bureau, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Any communications regarding the Card Index should be addressed to The Bibliographer, Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.

OBITUARY

JOHN ROBERT BENTON

DR. JOHN R. BENTON, dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Florida for nineteen years and a member of the faculty since the establishment of the institution at Gainesville in 1905, died on January 8, after an illness of only five days. He was fifty-three years of age. Death was due to pneumonia growing out of an attack of influenza.

Dean Benton was a leader in the engineering field in the United States. He was the author of twenty-four books, the last of which, "An Introductory Textbook on Electrical Engineering," was published in 1928. Born at Concord, N. H., his education was received at Trinity College and the University of Chicago, and abroad at the University of Göttingen and the University of Berlin. He received his B.S. and B.A. degrees from Trinity in 1897 and 1898 and his Ph.D. degree at the University of Göttingen in 1900.

Dr. Benton was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Theta Chi fraternities, and of many scientific and professional societies and associations, including the American Physical Society, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Engineers, the Society for Promotion of Engineering Education, the National Electric Light Association and the Florida Engineering Society. The Benton Engineering Society is an organization of University of Florida engineering students.

Prior to going to the University of Florida, Dr. Benton occupied positions on the engineering faculties of Princeton and Cornell Universities.

He was one of the most beloved citizens of Gainesville, having been prominently identified with the city's progress during his years of residence there.