

line lists. It has thus happened that the first really popular work published in this country on ferns, has been Mrs. Parsons' admirable book in which the subject has been treated in an exceedingly pleasing manner. Admirable and valuable as these works have been there has still been wanting some treatise, which, combining the excellent points of the others, should treat ferns in a more comprehensible and popular manner and still keep in touch with the most advanced knowledge of the subject. This want is well met by Mr. Clute's beautiful book.

The author has long been favorably known as one of the best of our fern students, and his identification with the "Fern Bulletin" as its editor, has fitted him admirably for the task of popularizing the really scientific features of fern study and presenting the result in a most attractive manner.

The whole appearance of the book is in its favor, and it is to be warmly commended to fern lovers as the very best book of its kind yet published.

In his treatment of the vexed subject of nomenclature the author has wisely adopted a conservative course, and, for the most part retained the long established familiar names as maintained at Cambridge, and by the best authorities in this country and abroad.

The book is beautifully and profusely illustrated, many of the plates showing the ferns as they grow in nature, and suggesting here Heath's charming book on the English Ferns, while the text is replete with sentiment and legendary lore, much after the manner of Anne Pratt's popular Ferns of Great Britain.

The key at the end of the volume is somewhat original in the simplicity of its treatment and ought to be a great help to beginners in the determination of specimens.

As the scope of the book practically coincides with the range of Gray's Manual, it covers well our New England Ferns and no New England fern student can afford to be without a copy. — GEORGE E. DAVENPORT, Medford, Mass.

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SELF-STRANGULATION IN THE VIRGINIA CREEPER.—About the middle of last June Mrs. J. H. Robinson called my attention to the peculiar fate of a Virginia Creeper (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, Michx.) which had been growing beside her cottage at Jaffrey, New Hampshire.



One of the tendrils of the main stem failing to find other support had, as it appears, wound itself around a higher internode upon the same shoot and, after making one complete revolution had turned sharply around enclosing itself in a loop and then encircled the stem in the opposite direction. The knot-like loop, thus formed, was evidently so tight that further enlargement of the stem at this point was stopped. Growth of the adjacent parts, however, continued both above and below giving rise to a deep constriction in which the tendril was buried. This must have occurred during the growing season of 1900. In the spring of 1901 the part of the stem below the tendril put out leaves as usual, but the part above failed to develop its foliage and although still slightly green beneath the outer cortex showed unmistakable signs of death and decay. An examination of several other plants of Virginia Creeper indicates that the tendrils not rarely attach themselves to the stem that bears them but without injuring it. In the case particularly described the suicidal result was doubtless due to an unusually tight knot formed by the tendril. The fact that the stem continued to grow above the stricture and only died as winter came on shows the case to be analogous to the death of a shoot by girdling.—B. L. ROBINSON, Gray Herbarium.

## THE HERBARIA OF NEW ENGLAND.

MARY A. DAY.

(Continued from page 222.)

**Frost, Charles Christopher.** — Mr. Frost's herbarium is now stored in the Brook's Library, Brattleboro, Vermont, and is under control of the library authorities. It consists largely of a set of lichens, a set of Lesquereux' mosses (several hundred numbers in the original fascicles), and an unmounted set of fleshy fungi (usually only rough dried) in pasteboard boxes. Most of the labels accompanying the fungi give only the name of the genus and species, but no data regarding the locality, date, or collector. This part of the collection is now in the basement of the library and is not accessible for study. The lichens are in cases in the main library room and can be seen by visitors.

**Fuller, Timothy Otis,** NEEDHAM, MASS. In 1882 Mr. Fuller



Robinson, B L. 1901. "Self-strangulation in the Virginia Creeper." *Rhodora* 3, 239–240.

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