

ing is furnished by the tree here called the cedar. It is light, straight-grained and red at the heart like our North American savin. Strangely enough, however, it belongs to the mahogany family (*Cedrela Brasiliensis*), but, unlike its congener, it is a soft wood comparatively.

*Asuncion, Paraguay.*

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### BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Abnormal roses.**—Freaks are not rare among roses. In the GAZETTE, Vol. IX, p. 177, W. W. Bailey mentions "a garden rose in which, in the center of the rosette of petals, was a perfect but unopened bud." E. B. Harger, Vol. X, p. 214, notes that "on a common double climbing red rose" appeared "a sprout on which grows a whorl of four bracts subtending a cluster of ordinary petals, giving the appearance of a stem growing through the center of the rose." Further examples in this line of variation may be worth noting. A rose-bush on our campus has for the past five years produced only "single" roses and in scanty quantity. Last year the plant was divided at the roots into six parts and transplanted. Early in June, a little more than a year having passed, there appeared an abundance of dark red, velvety, double roses which challenged the admiration of every passer-by. Many of these roses exhibited a peculiar freak. One-third of the whole number showed variations. On one bush were six or seven with the stems produced through the center of the flower. In one case the stem developed two perfect expanded leaves, two leaf buds and a flower-bud, all immediately above the original rose, which was itself large and beautiful. In another instance the result is a "head" of five unopened flower-buds, each showing calyx, corolla and pistils. Other specimens show one, two, three and four of these "secondary" flowers above the roses proper. The principal flower in each case has its sepals and petals in natural condition; the stamens wanting or appearing as modified petals, while the pistils are entirely replaced by the new stem growth which rises an inch or more above the primary rose.—C. B. ATWELL, *Evanston, Ill.*

**Dr. A. B. Ghiesbrecht.**<sup>1</sup>—The Mexican journal, *La Naturaleza*, has published a graceful tribute from the pen of a native botanist to the services of a Belgian explorer of the flora of his adopted country. For the career of a traveling naturalist Dr. Ghiesbrecht was well equipped physically and by preliminary studies at the universities of Brussels and Paris. Associated with Linden and Funk in the commission appointed by the Belgian government in 1837 to investigate the botany and zoology of

<sup>1</sup> Vida y Trabajos del Naturalista Belga Augusto B. Ghiesbrecht, Explorador de Mexico, por el Sr. D. José N. Rovirosa.



Mexico, he proved himself a worthy successor to Sessé, Mociño, Cervantes, Humboldt, Bonpland, La Lave, and Lexarza. Braving the hardships and exposures of travel in wild and unhealthy regions, undaunted by shipwreck, robbed and wounded by brigands, involved in the strife and wars of contending factions, he pursued for thirty years the work of collecting plants for the herbaria and gardens of Europe and America. Captivated by the novelties of a tropical flora, his earliest and latest field of research, and apparently his favorite one, was the southeasternmost part of Mexico, comprising the states of Tabasco and Chiapas. But from 1840 to 1855 he devoted himself to the interior and other states, crossing the Gran Cordillera three times from ocean to ocean, traversing the Gran Mesa, and ascending the volcanoes of Colima, Jorullo and Cempoaltepec. The number of plants that he has distributed to herbaria or introduced into cultivation must be immense. Their citations abound in the literature of tropical North American botany. M. DeCandolle refers to a series of *exsiccatae* in the possession of Cardinal Haynald, at Colocza, Hungary.

A list is given by Prof. Rovirosa of many notable new species, with which the name of Ghiesbrecht is connected; and to this list might well have been added the remarkable arboreal *Scrophulariaceae*, *Ghiesbrechtia grandiflora*, which served Dr. Gray as occasion to dedicate a new genus to its discoverer. This tree, known in herbaria only by the originals of description collected in Chiapas, has recently been met with by Baron von Türckheim at Santa Rosa, in the Verapaz highlands of Guatemala.

The memoir concludes with a pleasing account of its subject in his eightieth year at his home in San Christobal Las Casas, where he has resided since 1862: "Retired from the wandering life that he pursued for so many years of the middle part of this century, but still vigorous and active, he occupies himself chiefly with horticulture and with doing good to the most helpless class of the community, that he has adopted as his own. His medical services are ever at the call of those that suffer; his moderate means suffice, nevertheless, to bring bread to the door of many a needy one; all his actions reveal to those around him, that he, who has read the great book of Nature, has learned to know the duties that bind him to his fellow men. Proud, then, are the people of Chiapas to have him dwell in their capital, and to call him their countryman, as all of us should do who love the advance of science in Mexico."

The example of such a life is not without influence, and to it in some measure do we doubtless owe the botanical collections now being made by Prof. Rovirosa in these localities.—JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

**Indian snuff.**—In Lloyd's *Drugs and Medicines* of North America several species of *Anemone* are described and their properties discussed, but the species mentioned below are not included. It is to be greatly deplored that the welcome quarterly parts of that work are not now issued.

In the Northwest the Indians are familiar with valuable remedies for





Smith, John Donnell. 1889. "Dr. A. B. Ghiesbrecht." *Botanical gazette* 14(9), 227–228. <https://doi.org/10.1086/326450>.

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