

THE GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Extent of the Collection.—The Herbarium, now including more than 500,000 specimens of plants, was founded and largely developed through the untiring efforts of Dr. Asa Gray. It has for many years been the most valuable collection of its kind in America, and has contributed, through the publications of its staff, more than any other establishment to the knowledge of American plants.

Scientific Services.—It is one of the regular duties of the Herbarium staff to answer gratuitously botanical questions received, and to give an expert opinion upon the identity of plants submitted to it. In this way the Herbarium renders valuable service in the various branches of economic and applied botany, such as pharmacy, horticulture, agriculture, and forestry, since in all these branches an accurate classification of plants is of great importance.

Constant Growth of the Collection.—In order to keep abreast with the present rapid advance of botanical exploration it is necessary to add annually a large number of carefully classified specimens to the Herbarium. Each year new regions are explored botanically and important sets of specimens are sold by the collectors. These sets, including the types of many new species, must be acquired when offered for sale, if at all, since they are quickly taken up by large herbaria. Should the Gray Herbarium be unable to secure such sets of specimens, it would suffer the same irreparable loss as a library which is obliged temporarily to suspend its purchases of restricted editions.

To the Patrons of the Gray Herbarium.—For many years the Gray Herbarium was dependent upon gifts for present use to meet a considerable part of its current expenses. Without this aid, it would have been impossible to maintain the continuous growth of the Herbarium, and the undersigned express their grateful appreciation of the important assistance given in response to former circulars. The income of the Herbarium, as now endowed, assures the permanence of the establishment and covers all the regular current

expenses, but it is not sufficient to meet any extraordinary demand such as the expense of further extension and thorough fire-proofing of the present building. Nor will the present income permit the accomplishment of many promising scientific undertakings on the part of the staff both in exploration and publication, which, were further support available, could be brought to a successful completion. Even yet the Gray Herbarium is less well supported than are some similar establishments elsewhere in the United States and in other parts of the world. Under these circumstances it is believed that the patrons who in the past have so cordially helped the Herbarium in making up its deficits may feel even a greater satisfaction in contributing toward its increased growth and usefulness. The amount most frequently given by annual contributors has been ten dollars, though many persons have given larger sums.

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*Members of the Visiting Committee
of the Gray Herbarium.*

Boston, March 24, 1913.

*Remittances should be addressed and checks drawn to the Gray Herbarium,
Cambridge, Mass.*

*Gifts to the Gray Herbarium are acknowledged in the Annual Reports of the
President and the Treasurer of Harvard College.*



Deane, Walter. 1913. "Deane, Walter 9 Apr 1913 [encl Gray Herb. circ]." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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