

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1904

The meeting was held at the New York Botanical Garden at the usual hour, Dr. D. T. MacDougal occupying the chair. There were 19 members present.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Council of the Scientific Alliance notifying the Club that the Alliance had appropriated \$50 from the Newberry Fund for grants in aid of research in botany or geology, and \$400 from the Herrman Fund for grants in aid of any scientific investigations.

The first paper was by Dr. N. L. Britton under the title of "Notes on the Flora of the Bahamas." The speaker, in continuation of previous explorations, which were reported in *TORREYA* for July, recently spent five weeks in the Bahamas, principally on the Island of New Providence.

About 950 native and naturalized species have been reported from the Bahama Islands, an unexpectedly small number, in part accounted for by the fact that most of the land does not reach an elevation of more than 25 feet although on one of the outer islands a height of 400 feet is recorded.

The flora is remarkable in the very unequal distribution of species, some being recorded from only one key. It is related to that of northern Cuba, extreme southern Florida, and in a lesser degree to that of Haiti. While the collections have as yet received only preliminary study, it is probable that ten or twelve new species will be founded on forms formerly thought to be identical with Cuban or other West Indian species.

The speaker gave a brief review of the flora, noting among other facts the presence of but five gymnosperms — a *Pinus*, three *Zamias* and a *Juniperus*. The lower monocotyledons are but poorly represented.

Of the grasses about fifty species were collected. These have not been studied, but it was noted that they show characteristic forms in each of the plant associations of the islands. One of the most interesting is the climbing bamboo, *Arthrostyidium capillifolium* Griseb., whose light green color gives a characteristic tinge

to the coppices. Seventeen species of sedges, none new, are to be added to the published flora of the islands. The palms are abundant and interesting, five species being reported. Eight or ten species of bromeliads, about twenty-five orchids, and four or five figs were reported. Among the Nyctaginaceae there are two trees heretofore referred to *Pisonia* but evidently not properly referable to that genus.

It was noted that most of the trees of the islands do not reach as great a height as they do in the Florida "hammocks." A water-lily, in habit resembling a small *Nelumbo*, and heretofore referred to *Castalia ampla* is of special interest. The coastal thickets furnished a beautiful species of *Parthenocissus* with scarlet pedicels. Among the abundant types were many Malvaceae, Celastraceae, Euphorbiaceae, herbaceous Papilionaceae and shrubby and arborescent Mimosaceae. Numerous photographs and specimens were exhibited.

The second paper was by Dr. Marshall A. Howe, who spoke on "The Algae of some European Herbaria." This was a general account of a trip undertaken during the past summer for the purpose of seeing and studying the historical types of American marine algae preserved in certain foreign herbaria. The first stop was at Trinity College, Dublin, where are found the collections of W. H. Harvey, author of the *Nereis Boreali-Americana*, and of several shorter papers on American seaweeds. In England, the three principal herbaria visited were those of the British Museum, the Linnaean herbarium, and that of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

In France, a few days were spent at Caen, in the department of Calvados, where are preserved the collections of several students of seaweeds, such as Roussel, Lamouroux, Chauvin, and Lenormand. Of these, the herbarium of Lamouroux is of chief interest, containing the materials from which thirty or more American species were first described.

At Paris, the collections of Montagne, of De la Pylaie, and of Decaisne, which are in possession of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, were those chiefly studied, though a collection of Guadeloupe algae, issued by Mazé and Schramm, was also examined.

The next stop was Eerbeek, Holland, for the purpose of seeing certain originals of Kützing, now owned by Madame Weber-van Bosse.

In Oldenburg, Germany, a few types of Roth, and in Copenhagen a few of Lyngbye and of Vahl were seen. The longest stay of the trip was made at Lund, in southern Sweden, where a month was spent in studying the numerous American originals of the two Agardhs, father and son, who were actively engaged in describing marine algae for a period of ninety years. Specimens were taken to Europe by Dr. Howe for comparisons with the types. Photographs were obtained of over three hundred of the types examined, and these are expected to prove particularly useful, especially as many of the species have never been figured.

The next regular meeting falling on the evening of election day, on motion the club adjourned to the last Wednesday in November.

EDWARD W. BERRY,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Percy Wilson, recently assistant botanist of the agricultural experiment station of Cuba, is again administrative assistant at the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. Valery Havard, surgeon, United States Army, and author of several papers on American economic plants, sailed for St. Petersburg on November 17, commissioned to proceed to Manchuria as military medical observer for the United States government.

Mr. George V. Nash and Mr. Norman Taylor returned to the New York Botanical Garden on November 11 with collections from Great Inagua and Little Inagua, Bahama Islands. Dr. John K. Small returned on December 4, from five weeks spent in making collections in southern Florida.



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