

young, which are dependent upon their mothers until the autumn, when they leave the islands with the other seals and fend for themselves. The young fur-seals cannot swim at birth and do not venture into the water until they are a month or six weeks old.* As the young male seals do not go on the breeding rookeries but "haul out" by themselves they can be driven to the killing-grounds without disturbing the breeding seals and it is only these young males that are now killed.

REVIEW.

FLORA OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND ADJACENT PLAINS, containing descriptions of the native and naturalized flowering plants and fernworts, growing in COLORADO, UTAH, WYOMING, IDAHO, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA, and the neighboring parts of NEBRASKA, SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA and BRITISH COLUMBIA, by P. A. Rydeberg, Ph.D., Curator, New York Botanical Garden. Published by the author. Price \$4.05 post free.

At any time during the last half-century the more eastern American botanists have had a handbook or manual by which they could identify the species they collected, but it was not until quite recent years that western botanists had such helps to the study of plants, and the Canadian botanist resident between Manitoba and British Columbia was until a few months ago without a worth-while book of any kind. Even the professional botanist with access to a good library was never certain that the species before him had not been described or re-described in some obscure periodical or list that was unknown to him. The average amateur botanist could do nothing but send his difficult species to some large herbarium for determination. Dr. Rydeberg's fine book has changed all this and the fact that it was primarily intended for the United States makes it all the more valuable to Canadian botanists. A flora restricted to the species known to occur in Canada would have left the Canadian botanist without descriptions of scores of species which undoubtedly grow in western Canada but have not yet been recorded. Indeed the writer during the short time he has used the book has noted in the herbarium of the Geological Survey several species that had not been separated from closely allied ones, and of course he will find many others.

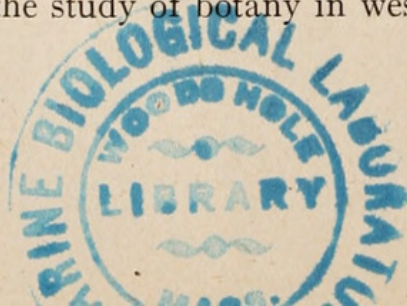
Dr. Rydeberg has been studying the flora of the Rocky Mountain region for more than twenty-five years both in the field and in the herbarium and in the 1110 pages of his Flora he describes 1038 genera and 5897 species of plants. Keys to families, genera and species, make a study of the descriptions unnecessary in the great majority of

cases and while not attempting to label all the species with English names they are given for all genera and for most of the more widely distributed species.

All Canadian botanists owe a great debt to Dr. Rydberg for having so widened the scope of his flora that few plants will be found in western Canada, east of the Selkirk Mountains and south of the Arctic Circle, that are not described in it, for while he fixed on Lat. 56° as the northern limit of the territory covered by his book this takes the collector north of the prairie country to regions where the ordinary woodland species predominate, and in the Rocky Mountains north of Lat. 56° the flora does not differ greatly from that of the mountains further south except that the number of species is smaller. It was too much to expect that all the species known to occur in Canada between Manitoba and British Columbia should have been credited to the Dominion by one who had to some extent to depend upon others when recording the range of species, but the omissions are surprisingly few and with rare exceptions these species will be found recorded from adjacent Dakota or Montana. Local botanists in Saskatchewan and Alberta cannot do better than compile from Dr. Rydberg's Flora lists of the species recorded there from these provinces, and working from these lists additions should be recorded as found.

The writer regrets, and most Canadian botanists will agree with him, that the nomenclature used by Dr. Rydberg is not that used by Canadian government botanists who follow as closely as possible the so-called Vienna Rules. The names used in Dr. Rydberg's Flora are for the most part those called for by the "American Code" and the names of many of the commonest species will appear strange to those who have been using Gray's Manual, the book upon which most non-professional Canadian botanists, even in the prairie country, depend for the knowledge of Canadian species. Dr. Rydberg has, it is true, included in the synonymy, in most cases, the name by which species should be called under the Vienna Rules but as there is nothing to distinguish such synonyms from others the student who is working without other books must for the time at least adopt Dr. Rydberg's names. Not many Canadian botanists either will care to follow Dr. Rydberg in his sub-divisions of genera but this is more or less a matter of individual judgment and taste. Many who are willing to separate *Pulsatilla* from *Anemone* or *Atragene* from *Clematis* will balk at breaking up *Saxifraga* into eight or more genera or *Habenaria* into five. Just now, however, questions of nomenclature are of minor importance compared with the collection and study of plants and there can be no doubt that the publication of Dr. Rydberg's Flora will give a great impetus to the study of botany in western Canada.

J. M. M.





Macoun, James Melville. 1918. "Flora of the Rocky Mountains and Adjacent Plains, by P. A. Rydeberg [Review]." *The Ottawa naturalist* 31(11), 143–144.

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