

cm. long : heads elliptic-lanceolate, about 1 cm. long, more densely flowered than in *E. intermedia*, the ovate-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate acutish or blunt scales dark brown : achene much compressed, obscurely triangular in cross-section, obovate, less elongated than that of *E. intermedia* ; the deltoid-conical tubercle nearly as broad and one-half as high as the body of the achene.
J. M. M.

* Proceeding of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Vol. XXXIV, p. 487.

LYCOPodium INUNDATUM.—On the wet bank near the junction of the Canada Atlantic Railway and the Rockland Branch at South Indian, May 9th, 1899. An addition to the local flora and not before recorded in Eastern Ontario. J. M.

SYMPLOCARPUS FÆTIDUS.—Abundant in a swamp about one mile from Osgoode. Collected by Mr. R. H. Cowley early in May. Not before collected in the Ottawa District.

TRILLIUM GRANDIFLORUM.—On May 13th, Mrs. A. E. Barlow collected a monstrosity of this species with four leaves, four sepals, four petals, eight stamens and four pistils. Two stems rose from the one rootstalk, each bearing exceptionally large flowers with the above characters). The plant is preserved in the herbarium of the Geological Survey.

A GUIDE TO WILD FLOWERS.

While in England almost every educated man and woman and nearly every child outside large cities knows the names of the common flowers of wood and roadside, meadow and field, in America such knowledge has been until very lately comparatively rare. A dozen or so of spring species are familiar to everyone and a like number of the more conspicuous and common summer flowers are pretty well known, but a general acquaintance with even two or three hundred species is quite enough to secure from the multitude the title of "botanist." There are many reasons for this lamentable ignorance but chief among them has been the lack of popular books on flowers. An

entirely unfounded but very general belief that special scientific training is essential before one may begin the study of plants has deterred many a lover of flowers from attempting to learn the names of species with which he has been familiar from childhood.

In recent years, however, several books of a more or less popular character have been published and their effect is already noticeable in the increased interest that is being taken in the study of flowers. Mrs. Trail's "Plant Life in Canada" was one of the first, as it is still one of the best, books of this kind published in America. It is, however, more a record of the author's own observations, than an aid to the study of plants and has perhaps for that reason not had so large a sale as its literary quality and the information it contains merit. "How to know the Wild Flowers," by Mrs. Dana, and a more recent book by the same author "How to know Ferns" have had a large sale in Ottawa and are doing much to popularize Botany.

The latest and most attractive book on flowers is Miss Lounsberry's "A Guide to Wild Flowers" illustrated with sixty-four coloured and one hundred black-and-white plates. In Mrs. Dana's book the usual general key to genera gives place to an artificial arrangement by means of which flowers of one colour are grouped together in of their date of blooming ; Miss Lounsberry has adopted a new arrangement and has divided the species included in her book into eight groups according to their habitat. Plants growing in water are first described, then those growing in mud and so on until the uplands are reached. Though some difficulty must have been experienced in determining the group into which some species of general distribution should be put, the author seems, to have been able to place each species just where one would expect to find it and the arrangement she has adopted will enable many who know nothing of botany to name the common plants met with in their rambles.

As should be the case with books of this kind, the common English names are given first in heavy type, then follows the Latin name, below which comes in a single line the family, colour,

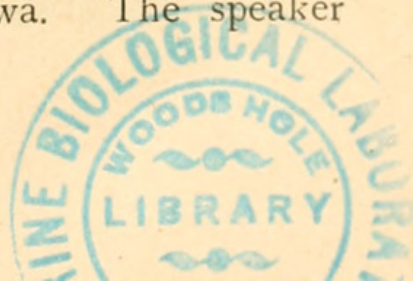
odour, range and time of bloom. A brief technical description of the plant is followed by general descriptive notes, which cannot fail to interest every lover of flowers. The special feature of the book, however, is the beautiful coloured plants, which make it the most attractive book of its kind published at a small price. Mrs. Rowan, by whom the drawings were made, is apparently more of an artist than a botanist and while all the illustrations are artistically drawn and beautifully coloured all are not equally true to nature ; nor are the drawings in black-and-white always as accurate as one could wish. It is perhaps too much to expect perfection in a book of this kind and its merits far outweigh its inaccuracies. As it will be used principally by those who will be satisfied to learn the English names of the plants they see the adoption of the nomenclature and arrangement of Britton and Brown's *Flora* detracts little from the work, though for a popular book the names and arrangement of Gray's *Manual* would have been preferable, if for no other reason than that they are more familiar.

J. M. M.

AFTERNOON LECTURES.

During April and May a course of popular lectures on scientific subjects was delivered in the Assembly Room of the Normal School by members of the Club. The attendance at all these lectures was large, an evidence that there is no lack of interest in Ottawa in subjects of this kind.

I. APRIL, 10th—"POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE GEOLOGY OF OTTAWA" by Dr. H. M. Ami.—In dealing with his subject Dr. Ami referred to the various geological formations to be found in this district and pointed out the various places where each formation could be studied to advantage—what were the mineral characters of each, the nature, origin, and mode of formation or deposition of each series together with the various fossil organic remains or extinct types of animal life which were to be found in great profusion in many of the sedimentary strata of Ottawa. The speaker





Macoun, James Melville. 1899. "A Guide to Wild Flowers." *The Ottawa naturalist* 13(3), 77–79.

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