

Satisfied that this must be a recently introduced grass I sent a specimen to Dr. Geo. Thurber who considers it an important find. It is *Cynosurus cristatus*, Linn., the "crested dog tail grass," rather common in Europe, but heretofore not reported in the U. S.

Botanists who visit Chautauqua this year are requested to be on the lookout for this grass in order to ascertain whether it can hold its own and can be considered as thoroughly established.—G. GUTTENBERG.

PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM.—I believe the May-apple is exclusively a native of North America, but it is found in great profusion from the northern to the southern boundaries of the United States. Now it is precisely because this plant is so very common that nothing is said of its beauty or virtues. Why it has been given the name of May-apple would be difficult to conjecture, as it rarely blooms before June, but occasionally I have found it blooming about the end of May. It delights in moist, rich soil, and is always most luxuriant in damp, shady woods. Its fruit is never ripe until the latter part of September, and indeed the plant is propagated so abundantly by the creeping of its roots, that Dr. Barton says only a small proportion of its flowers produce fruit. What the cause of it is I do not pretend to know, but the fact remains the same, that while I am well acquainted with the flowers of this plant, I have never seen the fruit more than once or twice. In May 1879, I noticed large patches of its light green leaves above, and pale beneath, supported on yellowish green stems about a foot high. Later on when the plants are in flower, the drooping habit of these blossoms found in the fork that the junction of the petioles makes, gives to the whole bed an elegant appearance. The number of its white petals varies from six to nine, and they are thickly laced with vein. The pistil is of a yellowish color, and crowned by a stigma much darker. The stamens vary from thirteen to twenty, and are yellow. The fruit that I have seen was small and about the color of a half ripe lemon, but Dr. Barton says, "the size varies according to the different situations the plant may have been grown in, and when mature is lemon yellow slightly maculated with round brownish dots."

The proper time for collecting the roots for medicinal purposes is after the leaves have fallen. Porcher says in his "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests," that the pulp of the fruit when squeezed into a wine glass and with the addition of sugar and old Madeira, is said to be equal as a drink to the luscious golden granadilla of the tropics. Many people like the taste of the fruit when eaten, without other flavor than its own.—E. HUNTER, *Essex Co., Va.*

RECENT PERIODICALS.—*The American Naturalist* for January is strong in Botany. Mr. William Trelease has been studying the Fertilization of *Calamintha Nepeta* and finds it cross-fertilized by many insects, though capable of close-fertilization in one or two unlikely

ways. The flowers are not fully proterandrous, as the stigma becomes receptive while some pollen still remains in the anthers. Protection against "unbidden guests" is afforded by the fine pubescence on stem, leaves, calyx and corolla, while a dense *chevaux de frise* of hairs guards the corolla tube. Rev. E. L. Greene gives his second paper on "Botanizing on the Colorado Desert," in which he makes one desirous of possessing the desert plants but not of collecting them. Prof. W. J. Beal has an illustrated article on the "Method of Distinguishing Species of *Populus* and *Juglans* by the Young Naked Branches." The suggestions are good and the thing seems perfectly practical and wonderfully convenient.

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club appears for January in a new cover and with a general appearance of enterprise. A plate accompanies Mr. Francis Wollé's article on New American Desmids. Prof. Eaton has the ninth installment of "New or Little Known Ferns of the U. S." Mr. E. L. Greene describes a new *Asclepias* from Arizona.

The Monthly Microscopical Journal for January shows also marks of improvement in smaller, clearer type, giving a pleasanter appearance and more matter. Every botanist who works with the compound microscope should not fail to subscribe for this Journal.

CATALOGUE OF THE FLORA OF INDIANA.—With this number of the GAZETTE we begin issuing in the form of extras a catalogue of Indiana plants. When no range is indicated the plant occurs throughout the state. When the term "North" or "South" is used, the plant has been found in the northern or southern part of the State. In other cases there is given simply the names of counties from which the plant has been reported. Of course many Indiana botanists will see that counties have not been credited that should be, but we have on hands no proof that the plants grow anywhere but in the places mentioned. Possibly this manner of publication will bring us the desired information, for botanists often begin to send notes after publication has been begun. We would call on them again to send any names or specimens they may possess that all additions necessary may be made in the closing pages. Whenever a new name is sent to be inserted in the catalogue a specimen should always accompany it. A moment's reflection will show the necessity of this in making an authoritative catalogue. Every name in the catalogue should stand for an actual specimen, a specimen that can be produced for examination at a moment's notice. While we do not doubt that many botanists in the state are as competent to pronounce upon a specimen as we are, the line must be drawn somewhere or we would be overwhelmed with spurious names and the catalogue become worse than useless. It is to be distinctly understood then by botanists in general that this catalogue stands ready with its proofs in every case.



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