

Anatomy and plant hybrids.—Miss HOLDEN²¹ has suggested that anatomical structures may be used in the recognition of spontaneous hybrids which are identical in external appearance with ordinary species. There can be no question but that spontaneous hybrids are of extremely common occurrence, and when they are recognized at all, they are described as variations of recognized species. She uses as illustration a case of identical external structure covering profound differences in internal organization. A hybrid between *Betula pumila* and *B. lenta* was recognized by anatomical structure which otherwise appeared to be *B. pumila*. Another illustration is obtained from a form of *Equisetum* which was clearly proved to be a hybrid. If this weapon proves to be as efficient as Miss HOLDEN hopes, it will go far toward attacking successfully the problem of mutations.—J. M. C.

An Arkansas prairie.—As a result of a tour of a portion of Eastern Arkansas, HARPER²² gives us some notes upon the phytogeography of the region, the most interesting of which concern an area of natural prairie, known as Grand Prairie, in Prairie County. The plant list, made about the middle of June, shows a very rich flora, estimated at 150 species, in which the Compositae, Leguminosae, and Juncaceae are well represented. No solution is offered of the problem of the occurrence of a prairie in this old flood plain other than indications that the soil moisture shows great extremes when spring and mid-summer conditions are contrasted. The study of such areas in Arkansas seems to have been neglected and to offer excellent opportunities for botanical investigation.—G. D. FULLER.

The vegetation of the Hempstead Plains.—R. M. HARPER presents the interesting floral features of the Hempstead Plains, which are situated in the western part of Long Island, New York.²³ In this area there is a natural prairie of some 50 square miles in extent, much of which shows vegetation essentially undisturbed by human influences. The commonest herb is *Andropogon scoparius*, which also is common on many western prairies. HARPER discusses the possible causes of such a prairie, without coming to definite conclusions, except that climatic theories are ruled out, as is the influence of fire or of grazing. It is more likely, he thinks, that the Hempstead prairie is associated with some peculiar type of soil.—H. C. COWLES.

²¹ HOLDEN, RUTH, Anatomy as a means of diagnosis of spontaneous plant hybrids. Science N.S. 38:932, 933. 1913.

²² HARPER, R. M., Phytogeographical notes on the coastal plain of Arkansas. Plant World 17:36-48. 1914.

²³ HARPER, R. M., The Hempstead Plains; a natural prairie on Long Island. Bull. Amer. Geog. Soc. 43:351-360. figs. 5. 1911; also Torreya 12:277-286. figs. 7. 1912.



Fuller, George D. 1914. "An Arkansas Prairie." *Botanical gazette* 57(4), 341–341.
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