The change appears to be warranted.

ASPLENIUM ABSCISSUM Willd. Sp. Pl. 5: 321. 1810

Asplenium firmum Kunze (1845) appears to be identical with this widely distributed tropical species and hence falls under it in synonymy.

ASPLENIUM CRISTATUM Lam. Encyc. Bot. 2: 310. 1786

Asplenium cicutarium Sw. (1788), proving an exact synonym, must yield to the earlier name. The occurrence of this common tropical American fern in Florida rests on a single meager collection. Further information of its occurrence within the limits of the United States is greatly to be desired.

Mr. Christensen has made a few other changes, particularly in *Notholaena* and *Pellaea*, which we are not prepared to adopt, pending a revision of the species of these groups. Among these is the transfer of *Notholaena dealbata* and *N. tenera* to *Pellaea*. *Pellaea densa*, which Diels transferred to *Cryptogramma* in 1899, Christensen restores to *Pellaea*.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
September 30, 1907.

A LONG ISLAND CEDAR-SWAMP

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

No cedar swamp on Long Island (or any other island, for that matter) seems to have ever been described in botanical literature, though evidences of the occurrence of such places on the island are not wanting. Such swamps, at least in the coastal plain and southeastern part of the glaciated region of North America, are characterized by the white cedar, or "juniper," *Chamaecyparis* (formerly *Cupressus*) *thyoides;* and Dr. Torrey says of this species in his Flora of New York, published in 1843: "Long Island, where, in several places (as near Rockaway, Hempstead, Babylon and Islip) it occurs in considerable quantities." The localities mentioned are all in the coastal plain,* but I do not know that any of them have been verified in late years.

* Some maps of Long Island (such as can be seen in almost any railroad station on the island) show a settlement named "Cedar Swamp" about three and one half

In TORREYA for June, 1906, it stated that on May 30 the Torrey Club visited "a white cedar swamp near Merrick" (near the south shore of the island), and found there among other things *Dryopteris simulata*, *Woodwardia areolata* and *W. Virginica*. In *Rhodora* for April, 1907, Mr. J. T. Nichols reported "a good colony of the tree growing . . . between the stations of Merrick and Bellmore, Nassau Co." (doubtless the place visited by the Torrey Club), and regarded this as the westernmost known station for it on the island, which it probably is, unless Torrey's Rockaway station still exists.

Following the clue given by Mr. Nichols, I went on July 3d, last, to the place indicated, which is just 25 miles from Long Island City by rail. The *Chamaecyparis* occurs for some distance (several hundred yards at least) north and south of the railroad, along Baldwin Creek, a small stream two or three miles in length. It is most abundant below the railroad, and almost within a stone's throw of the salt marsh into which the creek flows. Here there are some thousands of the trees in question, ranging from about 3 to 10 inches in diameter and 30 to 40 feet in height, growing in the driest situation in which I ever found this species, a condition which, however, is probably not natural. For just above the railroad the creek is dammed up to make one of the reservoirs of the Brooklyn water system, and as shown by Veatch,* whenever a stream in the sandy coastal plain of Long Island is thus obstructed a large amount of water escapes through the porous sides of the pond. The fact that no trees less than three inches in diameter were seen would seem to indicate that no young ones have come up for several years, perhaps ever since the reservoir was made.

The only other trees noticed in this swamp were a few specimens of *Sassafras*, one at least a foot in diameter and as tall as

miles northeast of Roslyn, in the glaciated region; but on a recent visit to the spot indicated I could find no perceptible aggregation of houses, no *Chamaecyparis*, nor even any swamp. Inquiry at a house near by elicited the information that the road I was on was called the Cedar Swamp Road, but my informants did not know why, and after walking along it for several miles I knew no more about it than before.

* Professional Paper U. S. Geol. Surv. 44: 62. 1906. "The effect of dams in the brooks of Long Island is . . . to very materially decrease the stream flow at the points where dams are erected."

the cedars, and several of *Acer rubrum.* The shrubby and herbaceous vegetation consisted chiefly of the following species :

Viburnum dentatum
Kalmia latifolia
Clethra alnifolia
Aralia nudicaulis
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Ilicioides mucronata
Ilex verticillata (?)
Benzoin aestivale
Rhus Vernix
Rhus radicans
Rubus hispidus
Unifolium canadense
Arisaema triphyllum
Spathyema foetida
Carex folliculata
Lycopodium lucidulum
Woodwardia (*Lorinseria*) *areolata*
Dryopteris simulata (?)
Osmunda spectabilis (*regalis*)
Osmunda cinnamomea
Sphagnum sp.

A little farther up the creek, near the railroad, were noticed most of the same species, and in addition *Trientalis americana, Gaylussacia frondosa,* and *Azalea viscosa glauca.*

The *Aralia* seemed to be the most abundant dicotyledon in the swamp. *Lycopodium lucidulum* does not seem to have been previously reported from Long Island, though Dr.G.H. Shull tells me that it is not uncommon in the vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, on the north shore. I was greatly surprised to find it in the coastal plain (doubtless a new region for it), and so close to a salt marsh.

Chamaecyparis thyoides is one of the very few conifers (and the only water-loving one) indigenous to both the glaciated region and coastal plain, and the only one now confined to these two regions.* (Not much is known of its prehistoric distribution, for in the fossil state it is reported only from the Pleistocene of New Jersey, and the buried trunks found in the coastal plain farther south are mostly in places where it still grows.) Its relations to the topography in the two different regions are rather interesting. In the glaciated region I have seen it only in "kettle-holes," or "undrained swamps," while in the coastal plain it seems to be confined to "drained" but non-alluvial swamps. Its very irregular distribution in the coastal plain has been recently commented upon.†

College Point, L. I.

* See Rhodora 7 : 71. 1905.

† Bull. Torrey Club 34 : 377. 1907.