Sonchus is a late visitor. This plant and Taraxacum threaten to
ingulf all the rest, and to supersede At fplex and Amaranthus even in
the richest soil. A portion of the two lots I never irrigate. Here the
native plants resist all encroachment from introduced species.—E. L.
Berthoud, Golden, Colorado.

[The accompanying list gives the names of sixty-five genera (species
not named) of introduced plants. Of these six are indicated as having
two species each introduced and one with three species. In addition
there are seven of whose introduction there is some doubt.—Eds.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

Dr. Karl von Dalla Torre has been called to the professorship
of botany in the University of Innsbruck.

Dr. H. Möller, heretofore privat-docent in botany in the philosoph-
ical faculty of the University of Greifswald, has been called to a pro-
fessorship.

The flora of St. Vincent (W. Indies) is catalogued in a recent Kew
Bulletin (Sept.). In this flora the Leguminosæ largely predominate,
with the Gramineæ, Rubiaceæ, Composite, and Orchidaceæ following
at a wide interval.

The Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information is being made more
and more valuable to systematists. The July number contains the
fifth decade of new plants cultivated at Kew, and the sixth decade of
new orchids. The department of Miscellaneous Notes is also to be
commended for the current information it contains.

The seventh annual report of the Botanist of the Nebraska State
Board of Agriculture is chiefly made up of a preliminary description
of the native and introduced grasses of the state, aided by numerous
cuts in the text. The species number 154, and a call for the aid of
observers throughout the state is made by Dr. Bessey.

The Arnold Arboretum is the subject of very high praise from
George Nicholson, Curator of the Kew Gardens, who recently visited
it. His impressions concerning it appear in the N. Y. Tribune (Sept.
10th) and are copied in Gardener's Chronicle (Oct 7th). It is certainly
true that this splendid institution is too little known and appreciated
in its own country.

Dr. Friedrich Tranquatt Kuetzing, the distinguished algologist,
died at his home in Nordhausen, Saxony, on the ninth of September
in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was born at Rittenburg in
Thuringia, December 8, 1807, studied at Halle, was made professor of
natural science in the Realschule at Nordhausen in 1835, and still re-
tained the position at the time of his death.

Under the law of homonyms, Professor E. L. Greene, in Erythra
(October), proposes the name Forsellesw for Glossopetalon Gray, (1853),
not Schreber (1789), and Bourdonia for Keerlia Gray (1852), not DC.
Lignonier states\(^1\) that a very concentrated alcoholic solution of rescin can be used to show up to advantage the lignified parts of fossil plants. Sections cleaned in chloroform are placed for twenty-four hours in the solution, washed in absolute alcohol and mounted in balsam.

Jensen finds\(^3\) that Euglena viridis and Chlamydomonas pulvisculus show distinct geotropism, though usually the geotactic movements are overpowered by the directive influence of light, heat and chemical agents. Upon his experiments he bases a theory of geotropism of which the keynote is the differences of hydrostatic pressure in different sections of the organism.

The first half of an extensive contribution to the literature on the pollination of flowers will be found in the Botanisch Jaarboek\(^1\) (1893). 156–452. The work is by Dr. J. MacLeod and is illustrated by many excellent figures in the text. After the admirable pattern of Müller he gives an account of the relations between insects and flowers in a part of Flanders. The second installment will follow in volume six of the Jaarboek.

Mr. Arthur Bennett, in his notes on Potamogeton in Journal of Botany (October), considers two American species, \(P. \) Spirillus Tuck. and \(P. \) fluviatans Roth. The former he considers to be \(P. \) dimorphum Raf., and under the latter considers the vexed question of its relation to \(P. \) lonicites Tuck., finally proposing to consider them distinct, the \(P. \) fluviatans Roth not occurring in North America, and \(P. \) lonicites being a synonym of \(P. \) Americanus Chamiso.

The morphology of the root tubercles of Leguminosae is discussed by Dr. Albert Schneider, in the American Naturalist for September. The work was done in the University of Minnesota, and the general conclusions reached are that the tubercles are developed exogenously from a meristem area surrounding the infected region, have a well-developed vascular system differing from that of the root, and anatomically resemble a stem more closely than a root.

In 1889 the genera of Musaceae (Banana Family) were presented by Petersen in Engler and Prantl’s “Die naturlichen Pflanzenfamilien”, and now, in the Annals of Botany (vii. 189–222), Mr. J. G. Baker publishes a complete synopsis of the same family. The true bananas (Musa) are naturally the most perplexing, Petersen estimating that there are about 200 cultivation forms, reducible to about twenty species. Baker presents them in thirty-two species, four of which are new.

In a memoir on the anatomy of the cell in fungi and filamentous algae, W. Wahrlich shows that protoplasmic continuity exists very

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\(^3\) Issued by Dodonaea; publisher: J. Vuylsteke, Koestraat 15, Ghent, Belgium.
generally in the fungi, a strand passing through a simple central pore. He contests emphatically the presence of plasmic threads in the alge, in opposition to Kohl. As to the division of the cells of alge he repudiates the common theory of the origin of the transverse wall as an annular thickening and revives the old "box" theory, holding it to be formed as a true annular fold, following the contour of the shrinking protoplasm.

Stahl's well known researches on the protective function of oxalic acid have been confirmed by a study of the distribution of oxalic acid and acid oxalates by Rudolf Giessler. He finds them chiefly in the epidermis and peripheral tissues; in much smaller quantities, if present at all, in deeper tissues; generally wanting in underground parts. Tannin seems to serve as a protection when oxalic acid is wanting. His anatomical studies are complemented by experiments with snails and plant lice.

The Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club for September contains the following papers read before the botanical section at the Madison meeting: Williams on Lichens of the Black Hills and their distribution; Atkinson on Symbiosis in the roots of the Ophioglossaceae, and Photography as an instrument for recording the microscopic characters of micro-organisms in artificial cultures; and Pammel on Crossing of Cucurbits, a paper read by title, still further testifying by experiments to the fallacy of the popular belief that cucurbits hybridize.

It seems that the name Halesia, as applied to the "silver-bell trees" of the south and dedicated to the distinguished Stephen Hales, must disappear. In Garden and Forest (Oct. 18th) Dr. N. L. Britton points out that it is a homonym, the earlier Halesia of P. Browne being a West Indian tree, now Guettarda L. Under the circumstances the genus is very appropriately dedicated to Dr. Charles Mohr of Mobile, whose name should surely be connected with the southern forest trees. The three species, therefore, stand as Mohria Carolina (Halesia tetraptera), M. diptera and M. parviflora.

The Reinhold-Giltay microtome, a machine of rather complex construction, but adapted to the finest work, is described by Dr. J. W. Moll in the Zeits. f. wiss. Mikros. IX (1892). 445-465. In the same paper he describes investigations on the tearing and compression of sections in cutting and the preparation of the knife to avoid these difficulties. He also sought out three polishing powders which give a proper edge for the best results. The first is iron oxide prepared by precipitating iron oxalate from solutions of ammonium oxalate and iron sulphate, drying, glowing, and rubbing up to a fine red-brown powder, (which, however, loses its sharpening power when it becomes red). The second is prepared by heating Mohr's salt in a Hessian crucible in a furnace until no vapor is given off, rubbing up the mass in water, washing and drying. The third is a polishing powder of unknown composition obtained under the name of "Diamantine no. 1." All three are used after polishing the knife edge with Vienna chalk. A piece of plate glass gives the best surface on which to use all such powders.
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