An interesting find

HAROLD W. PRETZ

It has been said that it is the unexpected that happens, and in so far as we are unprepared for some events, this is true. Everyone who has tramped about out of doors will recall certain experiences the very charm of whose occurrence was to a large degree due to their unexpectedness. Impromptu excursions frequently hold such experiences and usually create an expectancy that is sometimes realized.

The second Sunday in January was one of those rare winter days when the call of the open was most insistent. E. S. and W. Mattern, the writer's field companions, had the evening before predicted ideal weather conditions and declared their intention of going somewhere "up the road" in the morning. Anything in the vicinity of the Lehigh Valley northward from Allentown to White Haven fifty miles distant, and even beyond, is vaguely characterized as "up the road."

The writer had decided to stay at home, but circumstances brought us together at 10:15 in the morning, with the matter still open. With almost instant decision, we chose a trip which, though previously considered, held little in prospect but the pleasure of a day's outing. Thanks to training from long practise in the matter of preparation for field trips, by 10:30 we were on a train bound for Glen Onoko, the first place in our itinerary for the day, ready for anything that might turn up.

For those with an eye to the beautiful in nature, the Glen must always make an appeal; and on this day, in its winter dress, it was beautiful indeed. We used the camera freely.

The next point visited was one of the series of clifflike outcrops which occur frequently along the Lehigh river

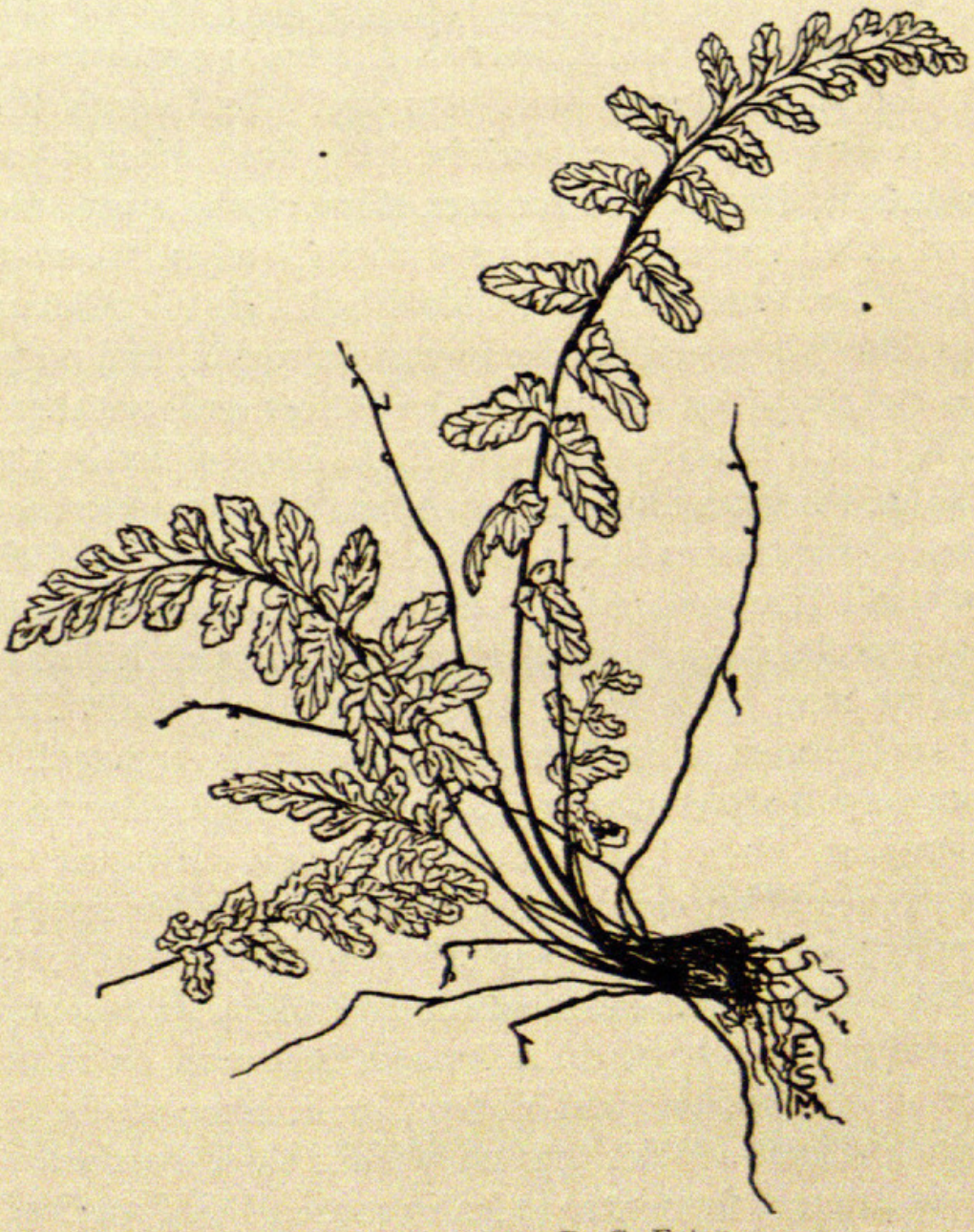
in the "Gorge" from Glen Onoko to White Haven. To one of these, a mile or more up the river and high up the hill, we made our way. Mountain spleenwort (*Asplenium montanum* Willd.) grows in the vicinity of the glen as well as at several places in the vicinity of Lehigh Gap, so that it was not unreasonable to predict its occurrence on these cliffs. It was there, as we expected; but climbing down to a shelf of rock, Walter Mattern, who was leading, gave a little exclamation which the writer looking over his shoulder, all but echoed, for there, flattened up against a side of the cliff facing north, was a fern new to us. It could be none other but Bradley's spleenwort, and so it proved to be. The writer found another plant near by. The fact of its occurrence having been established, only a superficial examination of the cliff was made, but mountain spleenwort was found abundant, as expected. That this species occurs on some of the other outcrops is not unlikely, and the writer hopes later to confirm this prediction.

For the sake of record, the station for *Asplenium Bradleyi* D. C. Eaton[1] is here given as "On outcrops of Pocono sandstone on Broad mountain along the Lehigh river north of Glen Onoko, Carbon county, Pa., altitude approximately 1,500 feet, January 8, 1911, *W. Mattern* and *H. W. Pretz* (*3155*)."

So far as the writer knows, this species has been collected at one other station in Pennsylvania, along the Susquehanna, in the vicinity of Lancaster county (*Small*),[7] at an elevation of about 260 feet. From this locality there is much excellent material in the herbarium of the Philadelphia Botanical Club, at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, well illustrating the variability of the species. In the vicinity of this station the species has been collected at a number of places.

There are two records of the species having been collected in the state of New York, farther north. In re-

sponse to an inquiry, Dr. C. H. Peck, State Botanist, has informed the writer that he was given the approximate location of the first of these, "Near Newburg in 1864," by Prof. D. C. Eaton, but that he failed to find plants



ASPLENIUM BRADLEYI D. C. Eaton

when he visited the locality some years later. Dr. Peck believes the second station,[6] represented by specimens collected by Mr. C. Lown, of Poughkeepsie, which are simply recorded "Shawangunk mountains," to be probably thirty or forty miles northwest of Professor Eaton's, and both stations to be probably 600 to 900

feet above sealevel, though the Shawangunk range rises to an altitude of approximately 2,100 feet.

The species has been collected in Maryland,[2] and to the south it ranges as far as Georgia and westward as far as Arkansas and Missouri. Dr. Small[9] gives its range from "New York to Illinois and Missouri; south to middle Georgia, Alabama, and Arkansas." In Georgia there is a record for Stone mountain, 1,000 feet, *Small*,[7, 8] and Roland M. Harper,[5] in his fern flora of the state, mentions that there are "various stations," all in the mountains. Dr. Chas. Mohr,[3] in his Plant Life of Alabama, also refers the species to the mountain region, and records one station at an altitude of 1,600 feet and another at 2,200 feet. The article by Dr. E. L. Lee,[4] of Bridgeport, Ala., in the Fern Bulletin for April 1909, on the occurrence of the species in the Cumberland mountains of that state and Tennessee, whence the original specimens came, is of especial interest, particularly his notes on habitat.

If we may judge from these and other records, Bradley's spleenwort, in its distribution along the Appalachians from New York southward, appears to keep close to the mountains, often in the South at high altitudes. Its occurrence at an elevation of 1,500 feet as far north as Pennsylvania is perhaps less surprising than unexpected.

The writer has no information, altitudinal or otherwise, regarding the stations in Arkansas, Missouri, or Illinois, west of the Appalachian system, or in some states that include a part of this system within their borders. It would interest the writer to know more of this species, so far as distribution, altitude, and preference of habitat are concerned. Investigation would naturally yield much valuable information. Perhaps if the members of the Society were consulted, it might be found that the writer is not alone in his interest. In this present day the mere mapping of the ranges of some species by certain bounding stations is far from satisfying.

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ALLENTOWN, PA.

Lycopodium flabelliforme

E. J. WINSLOW

In an article in the July number of Rhodora [1911], Mr. W. H. Blanchard raises *Lycopodium complanatum* var. *flabelliforme* to specific rank. Mr. Blanchard's observations are definite and comprehensive, and a careful reading of his paper will open the eyes of the observer to many interesting details of the structure and manner of growth of this group of fern allies. I quote:

"The two plants *L. complanatum* and *L. tristachyum* have several distinctive characters in common—they have underground rootstocks, ripen their fruit early in the season, have slender peduncles growing from nearly similar points, and enlarge by growth from the ends of all branches, while *L. flabelliforme* has different or just the opposite characters." * * * * *