

Cryptogamic Botany

A DEPARTMENT OF THE OBSERVER,  
PORTLAND, CONN.

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON, EDITOR,  
Columbia College, New York City.

April 9th, 1896

Dear Mr. Collins,

I have been intending to write to you and congratulate you on that nice set of Algae just issued, in which you and others have done your share so nobly and so well. It is a credit to American students to have such work to show. And furthermore it throws all recent attempts to distribute exsiccatae by foreign collectors in the shade, and shows them what we call good work. I shall be only too glad to send you duplicates of mosses and will get ready a set for you at once! Besides, I think I can promise prof. Bailey for the Department, a set of the Jaeger duplicates of European Mosses, I have 16 sets of them, and have taken care to keep as many duplicates as possible, in order to help American students to become independent of so much European help.

in reply. Please let me know what books you have in the Library too, as occasionally I have a duplicate to spare. Is there a set of my reprints? on the Mosses?

I do not know that it is necessary for us to make our section a chapter of the A.A. I rather think we shall work better independently, simply using the Observer as our journal, for the present. The Linnean Fern Chapter wanted us, but their little pamphlet can not afford illustrations, and they are very important. I shall be very glad to receive any suggestions, and am waiting to hear from those who would like to help. My principal idea is to facilitate exchanges, stop this sending abroad for naming and distributing, our American Mosses, and teach others how to help themselves.

Dr. Evans will give us soon 10-12 papers on the Hepaticae, which we



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shall illustrate and distribute specimens of, and Miss Cummings and Dr. Schneider, have promised to do the same for the Lichens. I also hope later to do the same for the F.W. Algae, and the marine. There are so many interesting things to be told about them all, that even such men as Faxon, and Rau and men who know the mosses, and have known them for years, write to me, and say, "I am so glad you told me that about the <sup>m</sup>naing of Buxbaumia, I shall not forget it, it is very quaint" and there are lots of things coming up all the time that we want to have looked into right away. I mean to go back to my school-teaching days, and hold the readers ~~respon~~sible too for a certain amount of work, and not let my suggestions as to what remains to be done go in one ear and out of the other. I shall send you the White Mt. Moss, metraplodon mnioides, from timbers of the stable on the summit, saturated with urine, collected by Faxon, and others. and will refer you to D.A. Burnett, Bradford, Penn. for specimens from his region. He has duplicates of good ones, well named. I send you his list with this.

Sincerely yours,

E. G. Britton.



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