

of this word with the *us* added for euphony. Surely the meaning is perfectly applicable to the plants.

I have a ternate grape fern and a variety of *Dryopteris spinulosa* and perhaps the typical species, which I had hoped to ask you about this fall, but have injured a muscle in running a race and have not stood on two feet for three weeks. I am dropping the indusia of the spinulose ferns will not be too old to be examined as to glands, when I am able to be about again.

Very truly yours,
Stella Freeman Peterson.

18 Young Orchard Avenue,
Providence, R. I.,
October 2, 1908.

My dear Professor Collins,

Because of your generous permission to keep the enclosed letter as long as I liked, I have retained it until now, though I had intended to return it in person when college opened. I sincerely thank you and your friend for the information you have gained for me, and without which I fear my own investigations must have remained at a standstill.

I think Mr. Pease is undoubtedly right as to the derivation of psychodes and cytonium. I liked the parallel he cited in the formation of psychodes from psychoides (ψυχοειδής), for his "anthemodes" and "anthemoides" convinced me that the dropping of the *ei* in psychoides was not another instance of botanical license.

For a time, I confess, the disagreement of your friend's derivation of *Cyrtomium* with that given of *Cyrtomium* in Larousse's "Grand Dictionnaire Universel" troubled me. [You remember Larousse gives *mion* as coming from the Greek verb *μῖνω*, meaning "to close" or "to shut", and there would seem to be nothing in his derivation which did not apply admirably to the anastomosing veins and areolae of *Cyrtomium*.] Knowing nothing of Greek myself I could not tell which view to uphold and which to condemn; neither could I make up my mind to trouble you or Mr. Pease further about it. Of course, I was more inclined to take your friend's explanation, since he was a Greek scholar, but I did want to have the other explanation proved wrong. Fortune was good to me; I met one who teaches Greek in a college in New York, Mr. Carroll Brown, and he told me that the middle letter (v) in that Greek verb must be rendered y in any other language; and that, if it came

from that, *cyrtomium* must be spelled *myrtom*. That, of course, throws out the French *myrtis* derivation, and I am glad not to have it haunting me with its possibility of being right.

Mr. Pease seems not to have worked out *peranimum* to his own satisfaction. I ad-

mitted Larousse's derivation of it to Mr. Brown as coming from the Greek *παρα* (*para*) meaning a "bag, wallet, pouch" and referring to the sac-like lip of some of the species of *peranimum*. He had no Greek dictionary with him, only the vocabulary in the back of the edition of a school Homer he was correcting for a friend, preparatory to sending it to the publisher. The word was not in that, but

Mr. Brown said he half remembered that that was the word used for "scrip" in the Greek Testament, where Christ sends out His disciples, bidding them take no "scrip", the wayfarer's satchel in those days. I wish we might hear from Mr. Pease whether *peranimum* might not be a diminutive



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