

matter in hand happens to be suitably constituted, may place upon its list of *nomina conservanda*. This support of a Kuntzean innovation by one who prefers to be classed among those who change names as little as possible inclines us to the belief that the line of division between his "two categories of botanists" is perhaps as elusive as the limits of some of the currently accepted genera of the larger fungi. It is a pleasure to note that the oldest specific name is maintained, — a practice which, happily, already has the sanction of most mycologists. The author's remark that *Agaricus campestris* L. is the type of the genus *Agaricus* is of interest in connection with Dr. Murrill's recent action in taking *Agaricus quercinus* L. as the type and thus transferring the name *Agaricus* to the genus ordinarily known as *Daedalea*.

Critical notes and comments are numerous — mostly written by the author but partly by Mr. A. B. Seymour, whose coöperation in the work receives a special acknowledgement in the preface. The "Bibliographical Index of North American Fungi," as planned and thus, in part, executed, will prove a valuable time-saver and aid to American mycologists and will receive from them a most grateful welcome.

MARSHALL A. HOWE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 10, 1905.

This meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History, with President Rusby in the chair and twenty-two persons present.

A letter was read from Mr. Edward W. Berry, tendering his resignation as recording secretary of the Club owing to his removal to Baltimore. Dr. Chamberlain moved that the resignation be accepted and that a letter be sent to Mr. Berry, expressing to him the Club's high appreciation of his services and the regret of the Club at his removal. This motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The announced program for the evening consisted of informal

reports on the summer's work and observations. Several from whom reports were expected were unable to be present.

Professor Francis E. Lloyd gave an account of his summer's experiences at the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution at Tucson, Arizona. On the way thither a visit was made to the Tularosa Desert in southern New Mexico. This desert is largely an old lake-bed of a comparatively recent geological period. The moving white sands which compose the desert overlies the *mesa* and consist chiefly of gypsum, and a little below the surface there is a considerable amount of available water, which, however, is saline. The vegetation of the region is peculiar, showing various adaptations to the intense light. Several interesting cases were observed showing how *Yuccas* and other plants are able by continued vertical growth to keep their tops above the drifts of sand and how in the process they help to build up and hold the dunes. *Rhus trilobata* and also a shrubby labiate form very marked pillar dunes. The gypsum sand is partly soluble and it solidifies about the vertically elongating roots and stems; the outer parts of the dune may then erode and be removed by the wind, leaving an isolated pillar-like mass surmounted by the tops of the living shrubs. An interesting and not especially common plant of the region of Tucson is *Cereus Greggii*, of a habit so peculiar and aberrant that it does not seem to be a *Cereus* at all. Like certain other desert plants it has an underground storage system which is very large in comparison with the above-ground parts. The rapidity with which foliage appears on desert plants after rains has been often noted and it has been a question in how far growth of leaves may be stimulated by the direct access of water to the above-ground parts without the intervention of the root-system. This point was tested during the past summer by experiments at the Desert Botanical Laboratory. By means of a siphon, water was supplied directly to the leaf-buds and stems, in such a way as to prevent the water from reaching the ground. It was found that the desert plants thus stimulated produce leaves in the course of a few days. Very noticeable changes occur within twenty-four hours, both when plants are stimulated as described and after natural irrigation by

rains. Professor Lloyd further observed diurnal nutations and nyctitropic movements in an amaranth growing near the Desert Laboratory. Photographs were shown illustrating the observations commented upon.

Dr. William A. Murrill spoke briefly of his collections of fungi during the summer at Ohio Pyle, Pennsylvania, in the District of Columbia, and in the Mt. Katahdin region of Maine, describing also some of his camping experiences in the Maine woods. Dr. Murrill was impressed by the boreal character of the fleshy fungi found about Mt. Katahdin, many of them recalling species that he had collected in Sweden.

President Rusby reported on a Torrey Club excursion to Pompton Plains, New Jersey, where *Capnoides flavulum* was among the rare plants obtained; also on a club excursion to Great Island, New Jersey. Great Island is a hummock of sand surrounded by a salt marsh and lying between Newark and Elizabeth; it has numerous interesting plants, some of them being characteristic of the pine-barren flora of the region further south.

Professor E. S. Burgess remarked upon his summer's visit to the Pacific Coast. Collections and field studies of asters were made in New Mexico, Arizona, California and Oregon. Mt. Hood, Oregon, proved an especially interesting field. Asters were found growing there in close proximity to snow and ice.

Mrs. Britton alluded briefly to collecting experiences in Bermuda during September. Most of the species of ferns, mosses and hepatics are found there only in the "caves" or sink-holes. Her collections indicate considerable additions to the list of mosses published in the Report of the Challenger Expedition.

Dr. J. H. Barnhart spoke of the International Botanical Congress held at Vienna in June, which he attended as a delegate from the New York Botanical Garden.

Adjournment followed.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,
Secretary pro tem.



Howe, Marshall A. 1905. "PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB." *Torrey* 5(11), 202–204.

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