

## BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Sept. 6, 1844.—J. Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Mr. T. Ingall presented a specimen of *Teucrium Botrys* found in August last in a stony field at the back of Box Hill, between Brockham and the upper part of Headley Lane.

Read "Dr. Taylor's descriptions of some new Musci and Lichenes from the Australian colonies, namely, *Dicranum Menziesii*, *Bryum leptothecium*, *Bartramia tenuis*, *Hypnum excavatum*, *Usnea scabrida* and *Parmelia tubularis*:" all of Taylor's MSS.

Oct. 4.—J. Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Read "A General Description of the Botany, Climate and Physical Geography of the neighbourhood of Embleton in Northumberland; drawn up by Robert Embleton, Esq. in illustration of a Local Herbarium of the district, collected for the Society by the same gentleman."

Nov. 1.—J. Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Read "Notice of the discovery of *Galium Vaillantii* near Saffron Walden, Essex, by G. S. Gibson, Esq." Specimens were presented.

Nov. 29.—Eighth Anniversary Meeting.

J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

From the report of the Council it appeared that seventeen members had been elected since the last Anniversary, and that the Society now consisted of 173 members; at which a ballot took place for the Council for the ensuing year, when the Chairman was re-elected President, and he nominated E. Doubleday, Esq., F.L.S., and Dr. Bossey, Vice-Presidents. Mr. J. Reynolds, Mr. G. E. Dennes, and Mr. T. Sansom, were respectively re-elected Treasurer, Secretary and Librarian.

Dec. 6.—J. Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair.

Dr. Dewar presented specimens of *Carduus setosus*, discovered by himself in July last, three miles from Dunfermline, Fifeshire. This being a plant of Eastern Europe, and apparently hitherto unknown on the western coasts, there seems much probability that the seed has been accidentally imported from Russia. Its nearest ally in Britain is *C. arvensis*.

Mr. Thomas Bentall presented specimens of *Œnanthe fluviatilis* (of Coleman), collected by himself in the river, near Halstead, Essex, in July.

The Rev. W. R. Crotch presented specimens of *Helianthemum Breweri* (Planchon), collected in the long-known locality of Holyhead Mountain, Anglesea. This species has hitherto been confused with *H. guttatum* by all British botanists, but is figured as an undescribed species in the 'London Journal of Botany' for November 1844, and explanations are given in the succeeding number of the same periodical. The true *H. guttatum*, from the South of France,



was shown to be quite a different plant, by specimens laid before the Society.

Mr. Hewett Watson called the attention of the Society to a series of specimens in illustration of the three species of *Ænanthe* described by Mr. Ball, in the 'Annals of Natural History,' under the names of *pimpinelloides*, *Lachenalii*, and *silaifolia*. Mr. Watson stated that these species had been confused and misnamed by Hudson and Smith, and that most succeeding botanists had in consequence been misled about them; the error and confusion being greatly increased by the want of root and fruit on specimens collected for herbaria. He considered that Mr. Lees was the first English botanist who correctly understood the true *pimpinelloides*. Mr. Babington next rightly determined the *Lachenalii*; and lastly, Mr. Ball, contrasting these two plants with the *peucedanifolia* of Smith, showed clearly enough that three indigenous species had been confused into two only, on account of no single botanist being sufficiently acquainted with all three. Specimens sent to the Society by the Rev. A. Bloxam, Mr. Lees, Mr. G. S. Gibson and Mr. Thwaites, with others collected by Mr. Watson himself, illustrated the three species clearly; except that the early radical leaves and perfectly mature fruit of Smith's *peucedanifolia* were still wanting. Mr. Watson, however, suspected that Mr. Ball's name of *silaifolia* was equally incorrect as Smith's name of *peucedanifolia*, and not knowing any other described species to which Smith's plant could be referred, he adopted the name of *Ænanthe Smithii*; to be temporary or permanent, as occasion might require.

The following is an abbreviation of the specific characters proposed for the species:—

1. *Æ. pimpinelloides*, Linn. Tubers oval or subspherical, connected with the stem by a slender peduncle. Fruit cylindrical, about as broad as the calyx, callous at the base, not contracted.

2. *Æ. Lachenalii*, Gmel. Tubers elongated and slender, clavate, fusiform or subcylindrical, gradually enlarging from the base of the stem, without any distinct peduncle. Fruit oblong or turbinate, broader than the calyx, contracted, and without callosity at base.

3. *Æ. Smithii*, H. Wats. Tubers short and thick, clavate, fusiform or oblong, sessile at the base of the stem. Fruit cylindrical, scarcely so broad as the calyx, callous at the base, not contracted.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 29.—The Rev. Professor Sedgwick read the conclusion of his "Memoirs on the Geology of North Wales."

June 12.—The following papers were read:—

1. "On Fluorine in Bones, its Source and its Application to the ascertainment of Geological Time." By Mr. J. Middleton.

The author having analysed and determined the amount of fluoride of calcium in recent bone, in that of an ancient Greek, of a mummy, and in the bones of fossil vertebrata from the Siwalic hills, found the proportions increase according to the age. He instituted a se-



1845. "Botanical Society of London." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 14, 510–511.

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