

in its fresh state is bruised and mashed, and then gently steeped in milk. This after straining is to be drunk in large quantities until the patient has fully recovered. Mr. Clark affirms that he has successfully treated several patients by this method and has never yet lost a case. He is an intelligent minister in regular standing and active service of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and in early days when physicians were scarce, did considerable practice of medicine. He is thoroughly positive and candid in his belief of the efficacy of this *Hieracium* as a cure for rattlesnake poison. Not being a botanist he did not know the name of the weed, and until to-day I have been unable to say what the weed is. But to-day he succeeded in getting the plant in bloom. Rev. Clark reports the plant very abundant, but my own botanical excursions have not taken me where it can be called abundant. In Coulter's manual it is reported "From Montana to Oregon and south to the Wahsatch."

It is a well known fact that deer and antelope and other animals when bitten by rattlesnakes seek relief in eating some weed well known by hunters in early days, and Rev. Clark believes this plant to be the one.

By turning to Gray's Flora of North America (Gamopetalæ) one will see *Hieracium venosum* L. called "Rattlesnake weed." This popular name must have a history behind it, and being of the same genus of our Rocky Mountain rattlesnake weed it seems to point to the same use among the early comers to the Atlantic coast. On telling this account of Rev. Clark to a prominent physician to my surprise he did not scout and ridicule the tale, but expressed himself as interested in it and deemed the remedy as possible and probable.

Helena, Montana.

F. D. KELSEY.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Australian Algæ.¹

Among the various contributions to the geographical distribution of the Fresh-water Algæ, which have been given by the author, this work ranks as the most complete and comprehensive in regard to the Australian Flora. The work is based upon a collection made by Dr. Berggren during his stay in that country during the years 1874 and 1875.

After giving an account of the papers hitherto published upon this subject, the author enumerates about 300 species (with exclusion of the Diatoms), of which 26 have been described as new to the science, besides several new varieties and subspecies.

In regard to the geographical distribution of the species in other countries, the author does not think it needful to give any comparison, since the occurrence of these Algæ in the extra-European countries is almost unknown. He mentions, however, that he has not observed any new genus, or any genus not represented in Europe, except the genus *Phymatodocis*, which occurs in America and Australia. The collector of this highly valuable material has added the following remarks upon the general occurrence of these Algæ in New Zealand: "The Fresh-

¹ OTTO NORSTEDT.—*Fresh-water Algæ, collected by Dr. S. Berggren in New Zealand and Australia*, with seven plates. (Extract from Kongl. Svenska Vetensk. Akad. Hdglgr. Vol. XXI), Stockholm, 1888.

water Algæ in New Zealand do not from several causes occur so frequently as in the regions of the corresponding latitudes of the northern hemisphere. The ground which is generally sloping, gives a rapid course to rivers and brooks, and the surface occupied by stagnant water, swamps and bogs is not very extensive. The comparative small number of water and bog plants growing sociably together (such as Potamogeton and others), which in the stagnant waters and marshy spots of Europe are favorable to the existence of the Fresh-water Algæ, is of great consequence. The usually dry summer generally causes the draining of those lowland spots which in the wet season (the winter) are swampy. Therefore, the Algæ are more frequent in the damp and moss-grown localities of the mountainous regions in the northern as well as in the southern island. In the rivulets from hot springs in the Hot Lake District in the northern island the Algæ are, especially Phycchromaceæ, but likewise Confervaceæ and Zygnemaceæ, to be found growing in great abundance."

The seven plates illustrate not only the new species and varieties, but also several others, described before by other authors.—THEO. HOLM.

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. THOMAS MORONG is expected home from South America about the first of October.

PROFESSOR F. LAMSON-SCRIBNER has been made Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Tennessee.

THE AMERICAN Forestry Association met at Quebec, September 2-5, with Hon. James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, as President.

DE SAUSSURE'S chemical researches on vegetation, published in 1804, has just been translated from the French into German. It seems that the English are not alone in translating old botanical works.

MR. JAMES L. BENNETT has been elected Curator of the Herbarium at Brown University. Mr. Bennett intends to take charge of ordinary herbarium specimens, but desires to get together a museum of vegetable products to illustrate economic botany. He bespeaks aid from the botanical fraternity in this regard, and would be glad to receive specimens of fruits, fibers, fabrics, etc.

MESSRS. D. C. WORCESTER and F. S. Bowmer, recently of the University of Michigan, left July 22d for the Philippine Islands, where, through the large liberality of L. F. Menage, of Minneapolis, they will spend two years in the collection of scientific material. While the principal objects they intend to secure are birds and corals, they have determined to do considerable collecting in the line of fungi, paying particular attention to the *Sphæriodiæ* and *Gasteromycetes*. Mr. Worcester was instructor in botany for some time at the University of Michigan, and while there specialized upon the *Myxomycetes*, so results may be looked for in this line. The work on the material collected will be prosecuted at Minneapolis under the auspices of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences, in the museums of which all the collections will be deposited for the use of scientific men.