

this was in no way the fault of Gottsche, it detracts from the value of his notes not to have with them, in each case, samples of the same plant on which the notes were made.

While we have not space here to mention all of Gottsche's work<sup>4</sup>, we must call attention to two of his papers that are of special interest to Americans. The first is on the Hepaticæ of the U. S. of Columbia<sup>5</sup> and the second is on Hepaticæ of Mexico<sup>6</sup> and more especially bears on our own flora. Both are elaborate works, both are elegantly illustrated by Gottsche's own hand, in both the flora is very fully represented and the monographs constitute a broad and substantial beginning to any further study of the Hepaticæ of these lands. Unlike so many pioneer works, no time will have to be squandered over two or three line descriptions in order to ascertain what was most likely intended by the describer, for the descriptions are as carefully written as the drawings are elegantly engraved.

Dr. Gottsche leaves an extensive herbarium made all the more valuable by his elaborate sketches of the species which he invariably made in his study of any form. Better than all else he leaves a memory which extends over half a century of friendly help he has freely given to students of the Hepaticæ in all lands.—L. M. U.

An edible lichen not heretofore noted as such.—*Endocarpon minutum* Schaer. has been collected by me in many states, and is abundant in Tennessee. It has also been sent to me from Japan and Cuba, two widely diverse localities. It inhabits calcareous rocks and may easily be mistaken for *Umbilicaria*, two species of which it resembles. I doubt if any writer has noticed or commended this lichen as an article of diet. But Mr. Minakata, who is a distinguished scholar and naturalist, and who has lately spent two years in the United States in study and travel, informs me that large quantities are collected in the mountains of Japan for culinary purposes, and largely exported to China as an article of luxury. He expresses surprise that no attention is paid to it here. The name by which it is known in Japan is *iwataka*, meaning "stone-mushroom." Properly treated it resembles tripe.—W. W. CALKINS, *Chicago, Ill.*

A new *Tabebuia* from Mexico and Central America: *Tabebuia Donnell-Smithii* n. sp., PLATE XXVI.—A tree 50 to 75 feet high, often 4 feet in diameter: leaves palmately-compound on long peduncles 5 to 10

<sup>4</sup>As we are so soon to publish a full bibliography of the Hepaticæ, a complete list of Dr. Gottsche's writings will there be given.

<sup>5</sup>Hepaticæ in Triana et Planchon: Prodrômus Floræ Novo-Granatensis. Ann. des Sc. Nat., 5th ser., 1. 95-198, t. xvii-xx (1864).

<sup>6</sup>De Mexikanske Levermosser, efter Prof. Fr. Liebmann's Samling. Dansk. Vid. Salsk. Skrift. vi, 97-380, t. 1-xx (1867).

inches long; leaflets 7, very variable in size (the largest on petioles 1 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long), oblong to ovate, acuminate, rounded or truncate at base, serrate, glabrate in age, 2 to 10 inches long, often 3 inches broad: flowers arranged in a large terminal panicle of small cymes, 8 inches long, with short glandular-pubescent throughout: cymes few-flowered, with deciduous scarious bracts; pedicels 6 lines long: calyx closed in bud, deeply cleft and two-lipped in flower, 6 lines long: corolla yellow, tubular, 5-lobed; tube 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long; limb  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad: stamens 4, included, didynamous; filaments incurved, glabrous except at base; anther cells glabrous, oblong; sterile filament  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lines long: ovary sessile: pods 12 inches or more long, 10-ribbed, glandular-pubescent and loculicidally dehiscent: seeds in 2 rows.—Common on the mountains about Colima and cultivated about the town. Collected by Capt. John Donnell Smith, at Cuyuta in the Department of Escuintla, at an alt. of 200 feet, April, 1890, no. 2070; and, also, by Dr. Edward Palmer, at Colima, Jan. 9 to Feb. 6, 1891, no. 1098.

This is said to be one of the most beautiful trees of Mexico, and is called "primavera." The flowers are a beautiful golden yellow produced in great abundance, and generally appearing before the leaves. The trees are often large, sometimes 4 feet in diameter and the wood very valuable. The trees are cut into logs about 12 feet in length, and shipped from Manzanillo in the state of Colima to the United States, principally to Cincinnati and San Francisco where they are used a great deal for cabinet work and veneering. The tree is very common in the lower part of the Department Escuintla; it is tall and slender, usually leafless, and with the profuse delicate yellow flowers standing out against the sky like golden clouds.

The following note is from a letter of J. D. Smith, Jan. 7, 1892: "The trees were too branchless for my servant to climb, too stout for him to fell with his machete, and too high for me to discern what manner of leaves were those which occasionally showed themselves among the flowers. My flowers were all picked up on the ground. I think there must be many trees in those countries, of which botanists have not been able easily to collect specimens, and which, therefore, remain unknown."

I have not been able to place in any known species this interesting tree. It seems curious that a tree so widely distributed, of such attractive flowers and of some commercial importance should have remained unknown to botanists. The species, while not agreeing in all respects with *Tabebuia*, answers better to this than to any other known genus. In its inflorescence and ribbed pods it is more like *Godmannia* or *Cybistax*, but does not agree in other particulars.—J. N. ROSE, Dep't of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

