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The general theme of the book is the broad evolutionary view of heredity which takes into account the origin and inheritance of dissimilarity as well as of similarity. The book is clearly the best popular exposition of the topics outlined in the table of contents.

A. B. STOUT

### NEWS ITEMS

We regret to record the death on February 1 of Mr. John Innes Kane at his residence on West 49th Street, New York. Mr. Kane was the chairman of the finance committee of the Torrey Club, and he also served on the entrance committee of the board of managers of the New York Botanical Garden. He was widely identified with various other activities in New York.

Dr. J. Arthur Harris spent January at the Missouri Botanical Garden and is spending February and March at the Desert Botanical Laboratory at Tucson, Arizona.

Fifteen botanists were the guests of Prof. R. A. Harper on February 16, at a dinner given by him to D. H. Fairchild and W. T. Swingle, both of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Early in February some suffragettes of the Pankhurstian persuasion succeeded in destroying a number of valuable orchids at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. On February 20 these franchise enthusiasts successfully obliterated a pavilion at the gardens. The authorities have seriously considered closing the gardens to the public for a short period.

We learn from the daily papers of the sale, by the Trustees of Columbia University, of the northwest corner of Forty-seventh Street and Fifth Avenue, for the sum of three million dollars. Over a century ago the corner formed a small portion of the large Elgin Botanic Gardens, which Dr. David Hosack, whose name is so intimately associated with medical progress in America, purchased from the city for \$4,807.36. There were about twenty acres in the garden, the first to be started in New York, embracing all of the four blocks from the north side of Forty-seventh Street

to the south side of Fifty-first Street, and westward to within about 100 feet of Sixth Avenue. At the time it was part of the common lands of the city. Dr. Hosack found that the expense of maintaining the gardens was greater than he could bear, and after various negotiations the state acquired the property in 1810 for \$74,268.75, and in 1814 it was granted to Columbia College. So far out in the country was the property that although leased by the college in 1823 to a florist for \$125 a year and taxes, the tenant could not make it pay, and he surrendered his five years' lease at the end of two years. Then a seedsman took it in 1826 for \$500 a year, but he could not make any money, and gave it up the following year. Up to 1904 Columbia University held this former botanical garden plot intact.

Dr. P. H. Rolfs of the Florida experiment station furnishes the following in regard to the tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in Florida: "This tree is not known to grow to any large extent in Florida, and I was surprised, therefore, recently to find that the tree was growing and producing logs of sufficient size to warrant their being cut for lumbering purposes, in the region west of Palatka and northeast of Ocala. I believe this is the southernmost region where this species grows to lumbering size."

Mr. Aaron Aaronsohn, director of the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station in Palestine, lectured on the evening of February 15 at the American Museum of Natural History, on "The Story of the Wild Wheat and Its Practical Development." This "wild wheat," which is believed to be the progenitor of the modern cultivated wheats, is said to cover thousands of acres on the slopes of Mt. Hermon. It flourishes in a region where the rainfall is only five or six inches a year, while cultivated wheats require fourteen inches or more of rain annually. Experiments in hybridizing are being made with the idea of obtaining a variety that shall combine this adaptability to a dry climate with the essential characteristics of the wheats of economic value. Messrs. David C. Fairchild and Walter T. Swingle, of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, were present and spoke in appreciation of Mr. Aaronsohn's work and

of what it would mean to develop a variety of commercially valuable wheat that would flourish on the arid plains of the western United States. Mr. Aaronsohn added also many interesting details as to other features of the work of the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station, the funds for the support of which are supplied chiefly by Jewish citizens of the United States.

Of great interest to plant breeders are the remaining Jesup lectures on heredity and sex by Prof. T. H. Morgan, of Columbia. They are held at the American Museum of Natural History, at 77th Street and Central Park West, on Wednesday evenings, as follows: March 5—The Effects of Castration and of Grafting on the Secondary Sexual Characters; March 12—Parthenogenesis and Sex; March 19—Inbreeding and Fertility; March 26—Special Cases of Sex Inheritance.

During the coming summer the University of Minnesota, under the direction of Prof. F. E. Clements, is to conduct a graduate school of ecology at Minnehaha-on-Ruxton, Manitou, Colorado. Others on the staff will be Raymond J. Pool, M.A., assistant director, Edith Clements, Ph.D., instructor in botany, H. L. Shantz, Ph.D., special lecturer. The Alpine Laboratory is situated at 8,500 ft. on the Cog Railway between Manitou and the summit of Pikes Peak. The flora is both rich and varied, and in connection with the remarkable diversity of habitat, found in this rugged mountain region, offers exceptional opportunities for the study of plant response, and the origin of new forms. Among the alpine summits of the continent, Pikes Peak is unique in the series of great formational zones which lie across its face. From the Great Plains grasslands, the series runs from valley woodland at 5,800 ft. to mesa, chaparral, foothill woodland, pine forest, aspen woodland and spruce forest to alpine meadow, rock field and bog at 11,000–14,000 ft. in a distance of 7 miles. From the very nature of the mountains, weathering, erosion and other physiographic factors bring about the almost countless repetition of the same or similar habitats, and produce numbers of primary and secondary successions illustrating a wide range of developmental processes and prin-

principles. The field of investigation open falls into four general divisions: (1) the use of quantitative methods of studying habitat and plant; (2) the application of ecological methods and principles of forestry, agriculture, and plant pathology; (3) the measured study of individual response to the habitat with especial reference to the origin of species; (4) quadrat study of the development and structure of plant formations. For particulars address Dr. F. E. Clements, University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis.

Dr. John W. Harshberger has been appointed on the staff of the summer school of biological laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.

Dr. E. Bethel sailed February 26 from New Orleans for a five weeks' collecting trip to Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

The corporation of Harvard University, in the disposition of the Sheldon fund for travelling fellowships, has awarded during the past four years, several grants to further botanical work. Mr. A. J. Eames and Mr. E. W. Sinnott have made studies on Australian types of tree structure and Mr. W. P. Thompson has made studies of Javanese and South African plants. Both of these expeditions were made possible by the Sheldon Fund.

Richard M. Holman, B.A. (Stanford, '07), senior instructor in botany, University of the Philippines, stationed from June, 1910, to June, 1912, at the College of Agriculture, Los Banos, Philippine Islands, is on leave of absence which extends to September, 1913. He is at present engaged in graduate study at Leipzig University.

The botanical department of Columbia University is conducting a *colloquium*, for the reviewing of current literature, which meets the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, under the direction of Dr. E. W. Olive is conducting a seminar devoted to Thompson's "Heredity," which meets on alternate Monday afternoons.

Dr. Arthur Hollick of the New York Botanical Garden will spend March, April and May at the U. S. National Museum, continuing his studies of Alaskan fossil plants.

From the Denison (Texas) *Weekly Herald*, we learn of the death on January 21 of Thomas V. Munson, a nurseryman who conducted valuable experiments on the breeding of fruits. Dr. Munson was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Breeders' Association, and many other societies.

At the organization of the New York State Forestry Association completed at a convention held at Syracuse on January 16, Dr. N. L. Britton was elected first president of the society.

Dr. Edward A. Burt, professor of natural history (botany) in Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., has been appointed librarian and mycologist of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo. He will leave Middlebury at the close of the present college year and begin his work at the Missouri Botanical Garden in September.

The New York Botanical Garden has secured the C. F. Cox collection of Darwiniana, perhaps the most complete in this country. The catalog of the collection, as published in the *Journal* of the Garden for January, comprises 236 numbers. It includes first editions of practically all Darwin's works, manuscript notes, presentation copies and many other valuable features.

According to the *Evening Post*, Dr. G. M. Reed, of the University of Missouri, will give three courses in botany at the coming summer school of New York University.

Dr. Theo. Holm has recently examined all the collections being used as a basis for the species of *Dicaeoma* inhabiting *Carex*, as they are to appear in the *North American Flora*. There were altogether 1050 packets. Dr. Holm verified a large number of names where the hosts showed suitable fruiting parts, changed a few names, and supplied 34 new determinations. The manuscript as it now stands recognizes 24 species of *Dicaeoma* (*Puccinia*) on *Carex*, but a number of these species are represented by only a few collections or by a single one. Collections of rusted *Carex* bearing suitable data, and especially when accompanied by mature inflorescence of the host, will be welcomed for this study, and may be sent to Dr. J. C. Arthur, Lafayette, Ind.