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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Die Pflanzenstoffe.—WEHMER¹ has made readily available the known facts about the plant products (chemicals, drugs, enzymes, etc.) of the phanerogams. The plant families are arranged in the natural order, and under each the genera and species of which we have any chemical knowledge, along with the facts known and citations of literature establishing the facts. On the purely botanical side many facts of distribution are recorded. The work will prove of great value to plant chemists, pharmacists, and plant physiologists. A full index of the chemicals mentioned and a second one of the raw materials and plants greatly enhance the value of the book.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

Micrography of Javanese woods.—The third part of JANSSONIUS' micrography of the woods of Java has appeared,² and apparently completes this very laborious work, as it contains a general index to the two volumes. The plan of the work was described in the notice of the first part,³ and a notice of the second part⁴ indicated the further extension of the work. The present part, beginning in the midst of Meliaceae and closing with Moringeae, contains 100 species, the total for the two volumes being 329. Detailed descriptions of the vascular elements of so many species, including lists of reagents, sections, and material in each case, and also references to literature under each species, represent an amount and kind of work that few would care to undertake.—J. M. C.

Prodrome de la Flore Corse.⁵—Notwithstanding the long series of valuable contributions to systematic botany, both floristic and monographic, by which BRIQUET has enriched scientific literature, it is probable that he is chiefly

¹ WEHMER, C., *Die Pflanzenstoffe botanisch-systematisch bearbeitet chemische Bestandteile und Zusammensetzung der einzelnen Pflanzenarten Rohstoffe und Produkte Phanerogamen.* 8vo. pp. xvi+937. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1911. M35.

² JANSSONIUS, H. H., *Mikrographie des Holzes der auf Java vorkommenden Baumarten; im Auftrage des Kolonial-Ministeriums unter Leitung von Dr. J. W. MOLL bearbeitet im Anschluss an "Additamenta ad cognitionem florum arborearum javanicarum auctoribus S. H. KOORDERS et TH. VALLETON."* Dritte Lieferung. 8vo. Vol. II, pp. 161-540. *figs.* 49. Leiden: E. J. Brill. 1911. M6.

³ BOT. GAZETTE 43:345. 1907.

⁴ *Ibid.* 47:416. 1909.

⁵ BRIQUET, JOHN, *Prodrome de la Flore Corse, comprenant les résultats botaniques de six voyages exécutés en Corse sous les auspices de M. EMILE BURNAT.* Vol. I. Geneva: Georg & Co. 1910.

known, in America at least, by the devoted attention he has given to the cause of a better international agreement on the controversial subject of nomenclature. As reporter-general of two international congresses, he has won universal admiration for clarity and fairness, and has gained the warmest gratitude of his colleagues for the exceptional efficiency and energy, which, with great self-sacrifice, he brought to bear upon an exceedingly intricate, time-consuming, and unremunerative task.

It has been generally known that BRIQUET for the last ten years or more has been engaged, notwithstanding the serious interruptions to which we have alluded, in an intensive study of the Corsican flora. In order to gain ample collections and a first-hand familiarity with the floristic conditions, no less than six expeditions to Corsica were made by him and his associates. Not only were the more accessible parts of the island repeatedly visited, but the wilder portions of the interior, including primitive woodlands, still infested by brigands, were traversed and examined.

The publication now at hand is the first volume of what has been modestly styled a *Prodrome*. It is an imperial octavo of something over 650 pages, and contains, besides prefatory matter and bibliography, a critical catalogue of the vascular plants of Corsica from the Hymenophyllaceae to the Lauraceae, including 722 species and many varieties. Under each, the citation of literature, synonymy, and exsiccatae is exhaustive. Habital notes and comments on distinctive characters, distribution, environment, etc., abound, and at points keys are introduced to elucidate distinctions between plants of the Corsican flora and their nearest relatives found elsewhere.

Without the slightest depreciation of its other and more scientific merits, it may be safely said that no small part of the interest attaching to BRIQUET'S work will be found in the fact it exemplifies, probably in a higher degree than any other flora published to date, the conscientious application of the international rules of nomenclature by one specially trained in all their shades of meaning and intricate details.—B. L. ROBINSON.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Genetic studies in *Oenothera*.—The important deductions made by DEVRIES, from the results of a twenty-years' study of *Oenothera Lamarckiana* and its derivatives, have created an unusual interest in this species and its relatives. Numerous investigations have been made by many students, without any apparent exhaustion of the wealth of interesting phenomena presented. The *oenotheras* seem destined to yield results of great value for a long time to come, for the interest in the group grows greater rather than less with further study. The validity of some of DEVRIES'S conclusions rests upon the correctness of the assumption that *O. Lamarckiana* is a native species. Many diligent searches have been made in the effort to discover it in a natural habitat in America, but so far without success.