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### News and Notes.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Ohio State Academy of Science will be held at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, on November 26-28. A large and interesting meeting is expected.

GRAY'S NEW MANUAL OF BOTANY, SEVENTH EDITION, ILLUSTRATED.\* The publication of a new edition of Gray's Manual, extensively revised and modernized by Professor B. L. Robinson and Professor M. L. Fernald, of Harvard University, is an event of unusual interest in the American botanical world. The changes made in the work are such as to make it practically a new book. The nomenclature follows the Vienna code; the arrangement of the families is according to the Engler and Prantl scheme; the term family is used in place of the former "order;" and most of the genera have their full quota of recent species. A comparison with Britton's Manual of a few genera shows the following result:

Salix—Gray 31, Britton 51.

Crataegus—Gray 65, Britton 31.

Viola—Gray 45, Britton 43.

Antennaria—Gray 11, Britton 15.

To one who gained his first botanical knowledge from the 5th edition, the present work, therefore, seems altogether new and strange; yet here and there, on close examination, some of the old landmarks are still visible.

The revision has been admirably done, by eliminating the archaic and retaining the best features of the 6th edition. The numerous illustrations have been judiciously selected and will be of great benefit to beginners. The manual will probably become the standard text-book for most of the more conservative botanists of the United States.

No doubt the whole vexed nomenclatural question will again be brought to the front in America. It will now become necessary for those who simply follow some "authority" for convenience to choose between two standards. At first thought,

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\*American Book Company, cloth, 8vo., 928 pp., price \$2.50.

one might decide that the only course to take would be to accept the Vienna rules. But no dictum of any convention will probably ever be binding on the conscience of the average American unless all botanists the world over can have a voice in the decision. The only correct scientific convention which legislates for botanists in general must be one organized on the American principle of proportionate representation. In the meantime morphologists and ecologists who use plant names only as a means to an end will not be able to understand each other without the aid of a book of synonyms.

J. H. S.

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**Correction.**

In the paper entitled, "On the Origin of Polar Conjugation in the Angiosperms," February *NATURALIST*, page 257, line 20, read: "All polar conjugations, according to this view, had their origin in the original conjugation of one or both polars with the second sperm, typically in the second way through triple fusion. The polars acquired the property or function of conjugating with each other through their common attraction to the second sperm.

Now the question arises as to whether there is a triple fusion in *Sagittaria* and other such cases. Does the second sperm come down later and fuse with the first upper endosperm nucleus after the partition wall is formed, etc.

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