CONTENTS

Botanical Teaching:—
On the Preparation of Botanical Teachers:
Professor Charles E. Bessey ........ 633
The Product of our Botanical Teaching:
Professor O. W. Caldwell ............ 639
Methods of Botanical Teaching: Professor
F. E. Clements .......................... 642
Discussion: Professor John M. Coulter,
Professor Frederick C. Newcombe ...... 646
Leonard P. Kinnicutt: Professor W. L. Jennings ........ 649
Henry Pickering Bowditch ............. 651
The American Association for the Advance-
ment of Science ........................ 652
Scientific Notes and News ............. 652
University and Educational News ...... 656
Discussion and Correspondence:—
Faculty Business Accelerator: S. Museum
Labeling: Harlan I. Smith. Wilkes's
Antarctic Discoveries: Edwin Swift Balch 657
Scientific Books:—
Putnam Anniversary Volume: Dr. Alfred
C. Haddon. Municipal Chemistry: Professor
J. H. Long .............................. 659
Special Articles:—
Experiences with the Grading System of
the University of Missouri: Professor Max
Meyer. An Efficient and Rapid Mercury
Still: Professor Chas. T. Knipp ......... 661
The Association of American Geographers:
Professor Albert Perry Brigham ...... 669

Societies and Academies:—
The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Illinois
State Academy of Science: Frank C.
Baker. The Biological Society of Wash-
ington: D. E. Lantz. The Botanical So-
ciety of Washington: Dr. W. W. Stock-
berger. The Anthropological Society of
Washington: L. M. Casanowicz. The
American Chemical Society: C. M. Joyce . 669

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I. ON THE PREPARATION OF BOTANICAL
TEACHERS

Some months ago a suggestion was made
that at this dinner we should ask ourselves the
question: Why is it that with the enormous classes we are having in botany there is a marked dearth of properly trained
men who can serve as instructors in colleges and universities?
In order to be sure that I was right in regard to such a dearth I wrote to some-	hing like a dozen of the professors of botany in prominent institutions in the
country, making the inquiry whether they had noticed the same thing, and uniformly
the answer was that there seems to be a shortage in the supply of material for
instructors (in the college sense) and young men for other minor positions.

I think there is no lack of men who are ready to be professors of botany. I am
very certain that there is no trouble here, but when a professor who knows what he
wants asks for a man who can take up this work or that work as an instructor, the
situation is quite different.

What becomes of the great number of students who are in our classes? The professor of botany in the University of Min-
nesota tells me that he has over 500 students in his beginning classes. In Ne-
braska we have about 350, and elsewhere I find essentially the same thing. Enormous
classes are pursuing general botany, and

1 From the stenographic report of oral addresses
delivered at the conference on botanical teaching
at the dinner for botanists, Minneapolis, December
29, 1910.