SIZE AND FORM IN PLANTS

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Two years have passed since the association last met in Britain. Events have happened in that interval which mark the close of the Darwinian Epoch. Down House, in which Darwin lived and worked, has been bought, restored and endowed by Mr. Buckston Browne and presented by him to the association, who hold it in custody for the nation. The house is now open as a shrine to those who treasure Darwin's memory. They may enter the study where the "Origin of Species" was penned, or wander out to the Sand Walk, and draw such inspiration as those spots may yet afford to those who are face to face with problems cognate to his own. These years have also severed personal links with Darwin himself. Sir William Thistle-Dyer, who died in December, 1928, had been

1 Address of the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Bristol, September 3, 1930.

his frequent correspondent. It was he who, more than any other, carried the evolutionary stimulus forward into the botanical schools of Britain. Sir Edwin Ray Lankester, whose portrait by Orpen was a poignant feature of last year's academy, died in August, 1929. Not only was he the leading zoologist of his time, but he has left a deep impress on general morphology, for he was the first to analyze from the evolutionary aspect the degrees of "sameness" of parts, whether in animals or in plants. These two octogenarians were among the latest links between Darwin himself and living men of science. And so this last meeting of the association before its centenary next year falls at a nodal point in the personal history of evolution.

Morphology, or the study of form, was closely interwoven with the life work of Darwin, and—to
Editor's Summary