

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1902.

PLANT PATHOLOGY: A RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT.*

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THE study of plant diseases has made remarkable progress within the last two decades. This is commented upon at home and abroad. Perhaps in no field outside of organic chemistry or of animal pathology and bacteriology have the advances been greater. In casting about for a subject, it has seemed to the speaker therefore that perhaps he could not do better in the time allotted to the presidential address than to consider, first, the state of plant pathology prior to the year 1880; second, the progress which has been made from that time to the present; and, third, some of the problems which now confront the investigator. Nothing beyond a popular sketch is contemplated.

The twenty years preceding 1880 were years of stress and uncertainty in the biological world. Pasteur and Cohn had laid the foundations of modern bacteriology and the whole world was agog with interest over the new doctrines of fermentation and of disease. Sachs and de Bary had done equally magnificent work in plant morphology and physiology. But the great masters were not having everything their own way. Hallier and Billroth in Germany were upholding a crazy doctrine of

* Presidential address before the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology, Fifth Annual Meeting, New York, January 1, 1902.