

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

AT the meeting of October 28th two new members were elected. The reference in the last minutes to the occurrence of the Russian Thistle on Captain's Island was corrected, the plant proving to be *Salsola Kali*.

The paper by Mr. B. D. Gilbert, entitled 'A New Gymnogramme from Venezuela, with Remarks on other Venezuelan Ferns,' was presented by Prof. L. M. Underwood, the author not being present. It consisted of an exhibit of the ferns collected upon the lower Orinoco River last spring, by Messrs. Rusby and Squires. The more interesting species, besides the new one, were *Adiantum olivaceum* Baker, *Alsophila blechnoides* Hooker, *Hemitelia grandifolia* Spreng., *Hemitelia Guianenses Parkeri* Hooker, *Aspidium meniscioides* Willd. and *Antrophyum subsessile* Kze.

A discussion followed on the heterogeneous character of the elements at present included in the genus Gymnogramme, and it was agreed that the new species was naturally a Polypodium and that its necessary reference to Gymnogramme was due to artificial genus-limits.

Dr. H. H. Rusby described a new genus from Bolivia, in the family *Iacinaceæ*, illustrating by specimens and blackboard drawings. Its structural relations to the other groups of the family and to the associated genera were carefully pointed out. The communication was discussed by Dr. Britton.

A communication from Miss S. B. D. Lewis on the species of *Nymphaea* found in Raquette Lake was beautifully illustrated by colored drawings. The form of *Pontederia cordate*, with cream flowers, was also reported by Miss Lewis. An animated discussion of the communication was participated in by Dr. Britton, Prof. Lloyd, Mr. Rydberg, Mrs. Britton and the Secretary.

Dr. Allen remarked on his collections and observations in the far North, and exhibited a number of interesting specimens.

H. H. RUSBY,
Recording Secretary.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

AT the meeting of November 2, 1896, Mr. Colton Russell spoke of 'what an entomologist can

find of interest about St. Louis,' illustrating his remarks by numerous pinned specimens of insects, giving particular attention to the butterflies, and speaking at some length of the phenomena of periodicity, migration, polymorphism, etc., as illustrated by these insects, his paper embodying the result of a large amount of field work performed during the past ten years. Resolutions opposing the passage of the anti-vivisection bill now before the United States Senate were adopted. Three persons were elected to active membership.

WM. TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

AT a meeting of the Texas Academy of Science, held at the University of Texas on October 2d, Dr. George Bruce Halsted gave an account of his recent travels in Russia. At a regular meeting of the same association, held on November 6th, Prof. T. U. Taylor, C. E., gave an abstract of a somewhat extended paper on Roads, in the Black Waxy Lands of Texas, in which he discussed the best methods of construction, the cost of labor, results already attained, etc. Dr. Frederic W. Simonds also presented an important paper at this meeting, a tribute to his friend and teacher, Prof. Ch. Fred. Hartt, M. A., the first Professor of Geology at Cornell University, who died in 1878, when Chief of the Geological Commission of Brazil. This sketch will be published in full in one of the leading scientific journals.

NEW BOOKS.

- The Cell in Development and Inheritance.* EDMUND B. WILSON. London and New York, The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. xvi + 371. \$3.00.
- The Survival of the Unlike.* L. H. BAILEY. New York and London, The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. 515. \$2.50.
- The American Commonwealth.* (Abridged edition.) JAMES BRYCE. New York and London, The Macmillan Co. 1896. Pp. xiii + 547. \$1.75.
- The Story of the Mine.* CHARLES HOWARD SHINN. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1896. Pp. vii + 272. \$1.50.