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Arthur Bennett

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L. albirostris, Gr.

thumb therefore consists only of the metacarpus.

As to the animal itself, it is well characterized by the white colour of the upper lip, by the large size and breadth of the anterior limbs, and the faint indication or total absence of the whitish band or spots.

L. acutus, Gr.

3 (1), 1, and the thumb has consequently 1 (2) true phalanges.

The smaller and more pointed anterior limbs, the dark-coloured upper lip, and the distinct and clearly defined light lateral band well characterize this species.

I do not attempt to contribute anything towards the knowledge of the exotic species of the same genus, which, in general, seem capable of being referred to the two preceding types, but the relations of which to the northern species have not yet been submitted to a critical examination; but I will nevertheless remark that the late Prof. Malm, in a memoir which has unfortunately escaped the notice of Prof. Flower, has recorded a *Lagenorhynchus clanculus*, captured at Cape Horn, the skeleton of which contains only seventy-one vertebræ. It is therefore without doubt a distinct species from *L. albirostris*, and the diagnosis of the genus, so far as the number of vertebræ is concerned, must in consequence be modified. Nor will it be superfluous to remark that the genus *Lagenorhynchus* must be ranged in that division of the Odontoceti (the true Dolphins) to which belong the genera *Delphinus*, *Prodelphinus*, *Steno*, *Tursiops*, and *Sotalia*, and which is distinguished by the character of having the beak plainly separated from the frontal convexity.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

The Flora of West Yorkshire, with a Sketch of the Climatology and Lithology in connection therewith. By FREDERIC ARNOLD LEES. 8vo. Pp. 843, with Map. London: Lovell Reeve and Co., 1888.

A VOLUME of 843 pages with the numberless facts that a Flora of a large district implies is a difficult subject to compress into a short notice, especially when there are matters touched on in this work that a student of our Flora from its distribution-point would be tempted to be too discursive on.

The author dedicates his book to the late Rev. W. W. Newbould, and a better dedication could not be, for to few men are given the power of unselfish help that he possessed.

One peculiarity of this Flora may well be mentioned; the author

has (as in other places) attempted a phraseology which Mr. H. C. Watson almost made his own; the master has passed away, his would-be pupil lacks the power though not the will to express it. Readers will note at its first page an innovation, where he uses a word not often seen in modern English books, *i. e.* "Foreword."

A map showing the districts adopted, as well as other matters, has here (as, unfortunately is the case with other Floras) too much crowded into it; the expense of a second map would perhaps have been too much, still it is a pity. For working purposes the botanical districts alone should be shown and all the other matters relegated to a second map.

The Climatology is treated fully in sixty-one pages; the conditions prevailing in a district where the hills ascend to 2414 feet altitude must naturally present many features of interest, and these the author has worked out fully, though sometimes arriving at conclusions hardly compatible with the facts. We are not yet in a position to dogmatize too much on many of these points. Some of the tables given are well worth careful study.

With regard to cold and the action of frost on various soils, the writer of this thinks a fact has been lost sight of with respect to its power of destroying vegetation, *i. e.* the rending power it possesses when freezing the soil. In sandy soil covered by snow for three winters to about an equal degree, plants of the Channel Isles survived great cold; in the next winter, with hardly any snow, they were killed *wherever the soil was fissured with frost*; but close by, with slight protection from other plants, they survived; on examination being made the roots were found to be torn asunder wherever the fissures were—hence their death.

A chapter on Lithology, of twenty pages, treats of the "Rock types" as differentiated by M. J. Thurman. Mr. Baker, who first applied the arguments of M. Thurman to our Flora, has been followed by the author, with, of course, local differences.

Respecting dry and calcareous soils, it may be noted that where the Upper Chalk joins the pebble-beds of the Thanet Sands in Surrey apparently the same conditions prevail as to heat and moisture; on both water rapidly drains away, and the mechanical coherence or the chemical constituents must make the difference in the vegetation. The Horseshoe Vetch exactly marks the demarcation of the chalk; although seeds must be blown on the pebble-beds, yet not a plant of it can be found on them. *Verbascum lychnitis* grows (or grew) in abundance on chalk by the roadside; on the same roadside not a single plant has ever been seen by the writer on the pebble-beds, yet the physical conditions are such that seeds *must* be carried by rains &c. on to them.

Following the Lithology is the "Bibliography, 1548-1885," a "Plan of the Flora," and the Flora proper, the Phanerogams and higher Cryptogams with 412 pages, followed by the rest of the Cryptogams in 253 pages. "Addenda-Omissa" and indexes complete the book.

A good many "British" plants seem to find their north (native)

limit in Yorkshire, though it is by no means to be assumed that such will be the case when some portions of southern and south-western Scotland come to be more carefully examined; the writer of this believes that many will be found to extend to that part of Scotland though skipping the northernmost counties of England.

In a few instances the author has not availed himself of the full material at his command, notably under *Geranium nodosum* (p. 179) and *Carex Gibsoni* (p. 465), yet he quotes Borrer's *herberium* at p. 344, presumably seen by himself (*vide* explanation of Flora).

For the *Batrachium Ranunculi* Dr. Lees constructs a "schema" of his own, although he has arrived "at a profound conviction of the truth of the grouping given by Sir J. D. Hooker in the third edition of the 'Student's Flora.'"

Whatever Dr. Lees's var. *incumbens* of "*Ficaria verna*" may be, the plant of Boswell-Syme is certainly not a hybrid of the usual form with *Caltha palustris*.

Under *Hieracium Gibsoni* the author observes "this has yellow styles, and it runs into *H. maculatum*; it is clearly allied to *H. ccesium*." After having *H. Gibsoni* growing for some years along with *H. vulgatum* var. *maculatum* and others of the genus the writer demurs to this, and would say that it keeps perfectly distinct and can be picked out by its seed-leaves alone from *maculatum* &c. He also gives the *H. maculatum* of Smith as a synonym of *vulgatum* var. *maculatum* of Backhouse; according to Syme, in 'English Botany,' this is not so, as Backhouse named specimens of Smith's plant—"var. *nemorosum* of *vulgatum*."

Under *Potamogetum pusillus* "var. *rutilus*, Wolfgang," the description of this supposed plant will easily apply to forms of *pusillus*; the true plant of Wolfgang is rare, and many specimens so named are not it!

One query suggests itself at the last: Are not our Floras becoming too bulky? If Cryptogamic botany still advances with the rapid strides it has done lately it will become a matter of consideration whether it would not be well to publish the Cryptogams as a volume.

ARTHUR BENNETT.

Bulletin of the New-York-State Museum of Natural History. No. 3.
March 1888. 8vo. Albany, 1888. Pp. i-vi, 7-152.

THE whole of this number of the Bulletin is occupied by a paper by John C. Smock on the "Building Stone in the State of New York." The rocks are arranged as I. "Crystalline," and II. "Subcrystalline and Fragmental." The former comprise 1. Granites, syenites, gneisses, mica-schists; 2. Trap-rocks; 3. Marbles, serpentines. The latter have 1. Quartzites [*sic*] and sandstones; 2. Limestones; 3. Slates; and these are arranged in geological groups, all except some "New Red Sandstone" belonging to either the Silurian or the Devonian formation. The geological position and geographical