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IV. Notice of stations for Rare Plants near Edinburgh

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leaflet. The petiole is cylindrical, flattened and thickened at the point of insertion into the stem. The distance from the stem to the first pair of leaflets varies in my specimens from 2 to 5 inches, the average distance between the pairs of leaflets being about 2 inches. The leaflets are nearly but not quite sessile, and are *inserted on the* upper surface of the petiole. They are thickly spotted with pellucid dots. These are well seen when the leaflet is held before a bright light. From an examination of sixteen leaflets, I find the average length is five inches, and the average breadth at the broadest part $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I have seen specimens of the stem and small branches, the diameter of the largest piece being about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch. The bark peels off loosely, is very brittle, and produces a peculiar sensation when chewed. Between the bark and wood there is abundance of crystalline matter, but I failed to find any definite forms of crystals when examined under the microscope.

IV. *Notice of stations for Rare Plants near Edinburgh.* By
ROBERT KIRK.

The plants mentioned in the following list were collected in the autumn of 1873, and spring and summer of 1874, when I was competing for Professor Balfour's Herbarium medal. All the localities noted are not new, but where a well-known habitat is given, it will show that the plant is still found there.

Ranunculus arvensis, *L.* Dirleton.

Caltha palustris, *L.*, β minor. In considerable abundance on a small stream on the West Lomond Hill.

Helleborus viridis, *L.* Arniston.

Chelidonium majus, *L.* St. David's, on the ballast heaps.

Hypericum grandifolium, *Choix.* Water of Leith near Currie.

Malcomia Chia, *DC.* do. do.

Eruca vesicaria, *Cav.* do. do.

Erysimum orientale, *R. Br.* do. do.

Iberis amara, *L.* Waste ground near the Battery at Burntisland.

Saponaria Vaccaria, *L.* On the Granton Railway.

Silene noctiflora, *L.* Fields near Largo.

Lavatera arborea, *L.* Burntisland.

- Hypericum calycinum*, L. Donibristle.
Geranium Phaeum, L. Binny Crag Wood.
Ononis campestris, Koch. Musselburgh; and common on both sides of the Forth.
Vicia lutea, L. Embankment of the Granton Railway.
Lathyrus Aphaca, L. do. do.
Ornithopus perpusillus, L. Burntisland, ballast heap.
Rosa alpina, Desv. Near Penicuik.
Lythrum Salicaria, L. In great abundance on the banks of the Esk between Polton and Lasswade.
Sedum anglicum, Huds. Between St David's and Donibristle, covering a large mass of rock on which *Allium Scorodoprasum* grows.
Saxifraga sarmentosa, L. Binny Crag.
Telima grandiflora, Lindl. do.
Astrantia major, L. do.
Foeniculum officinale, All. Charleston ballast heaps.
Pastinaca sativa, L. Banks of Esk at Auchindinny.
Heracleum Sphondylium, L., β *angustifolium*. Waste ground near Gosford.
Aster Canadensis. Near St David's on ballast.
Cichorium Intybus, L. North Queensferry, above the Quarry.
Senecio viscosus, L. In great abundance on many of the coal heaps near Armadale, although very rare usually in that locality.
Jasione montana, L. St. David's, ballast heaps.
Verbascum nigrum, L. On an old garden wall at Largo House.
" *Lychnitis*, L. do. do.
Linaria Pelisseriana, Mill. Ballast at Elie.
Calamintha Acinos, Clairv. In small quantity at Dirleton.
Lanium Galeobdolon, Crantz. Kingswood, near Burntisland.
Marrubium vulgare, L. Waste ground west of the race course, Musselburgh.
Plantago media, L. Burntisland.
Gymnadenia albida, Rich. Near the Farm House, Knock Hill Bog near Dunfermline.
Allium oleraceum, L. Burntisland Harbour, near the castle.
Alisma ranunculoides, L. Loch Leven, near Kinross.
" β *repens*. Dav. Shore of Loch Leven, near the Bishop Hill.
Apera interrupta, Beauv. Still in abundance at Dirleton Common, and also at St. Davida.
Egilops triaristata, With.
Dactylis hispanica, Roth.
Festuca loliacea, Huds.
Bromus Madritensis, L.
Serratulacrus racemosus, Parnl.
Echinaria capitata, Desv.
Secale cereale, L.

These grasses along with some others, which I could not determine, were found on the Water of Leith, near Currie, where they have been introduced with Esparto grass.

Cryptogramme crispa, Br. Hills behind Bathgate.
Botrychium Lunaria, Sw. On West Craigs Hill near Bathgate.
Ophioglossum vulgare, L. Near Bathgate, and South Queensferry.

11th March 1875.—Sir ROBERT CHRISTISON, Bart., M.D.,
 D.C.L., President, in the Chair.

The following Communications were read:—

*Bearing of Meteorological Records on a supposed change of
 Climate in Scotland.* BY ALEXANDER BUCHAN, M.A.

It is a belief very generally entertained that the climate of Scotland has undergone considerable change in recent years, the summers being less hot and the winters less severe than they used to be. This idea was ably advocated by Mr McNab in his presidential address to the Society in November 1873. The facts which were adduced in its support referred solely to vegetation. In this paper the question is examined exclusively from a meteorological point of view, and the examination is confined to monthly mean temperatures.

The following are the records which have been made use of:—1. Monthly mean temperatures from observations made at Gordon Castle, Banffshire, from July 1781 to November 1827; 2. The monthly temperatures given in Forbes' climate of Edinburgh (Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin. vol. xxii. p. 335); 3. Observations made at Dollar from 1836 to 1856, and from 1861 to 1874; and 4. Observations made at Elgin from 1855 to 1874. The mean temperatures of the months and the year were calculated for each of these four series of observations for the interval embraced by each, and then the differences of each month's mean temperature from the general mean for that month and station were set down in a table. Since the time over which each of these series of observations extended was sufficiently long to give a very close approximation to the true mean for the hour of observation and exposure of the thermometers, and since the means of the separate months were only compared with the