

Dr. Britton remarked that this forms an interesting addition to the number of coast plants found in the Shawangunk range. It has been claimed that the breaking up of sandstone rocks there has produced a sandy soil sufficiently similar to that of the seashore to permit the growth of certain arenophilous plants usually found only on the coast.

Dr. T. F. Allen spoke of a specimen of *Rhus vernicifera*, the lacquer tree of Japan, which is growing luxuriantly on his farm in Connecticut. It resembles our swamp sumach, *Rhus venenata*, in appearance, and is becoming a handsome tree. Some of his family who are sensitive to *Rhus* poisoning find it necessary to avoid going near it.

Dr. Britton also reported a gift to the Botanic Garden of about 200 volumes which had belonged to the botanist, David Hosack. They are in excellent condition, and some of them extremely rare. EDWARD S. BURGESS,

Secretary.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, 312TH MEETING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH.

MR. F. A. LUCAS read a 'Letter from H. H. Field Concerning the Concilium Bibliographicum, and the Proposed Catalogue of the Royal Society,' calling attention to the expense of the proposed publication, even though no card catalogue was issued, and stating that the Concilium could carry out the entire scheme at a less cost than the incomplete publication proposed by the Royal Society.

Mr. Frederick V. Coville read a paper on 'The Botanical Explorations of Thomas Nuttall in California,' showing that the dates on which Nuttall is stated to have visited various localities were erroneously given.

Professor Barton W. Evermann described 'A Physical and Biological Survey of Lake Maxinkuckee,' giving the various problems whose solution was desired, and the methods employed for soundings, obtaining the temperature, and studying the plankton of the lake.

O. F. COOK, Secretary.

SCIENCE CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

THE November meeting of the Science Club of the University of Wisconsin was held on the 21st

instant, the Vice president, Mr. Edward Kremers, in the chair. The programme of the evening was a paper by Mr. Louis Kahlenberg on 'The Present Status of our Knowledge of Solutions.'

After an exposition of the modern theories of solution and of electrolytic dissociation, the speaker pointed out that his recent researches on non-aqueous solutions have shown that there are solutions that conduct electricity in which, according to molecular weight determinations there is no dissociation, and that furthermore, the molecular conductivity in some solutions does not change with the dilution, and that in others it decreases as the volume increases. These facts can not be harmonized with the theory of electrolytic dissociation.

In the criticism of the general theory of solutions it was emphasized that the solvent does not act merely as so much space, but that it has a far more important function, the very act of solution itself depending on a mutual interaction of solvent and solute.

The paper was discussed by Messrs. B. W. Snow, H. L. Russell, E. Kremers and C. F. Burgess. WM. H. HOBBS.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AN ALIEN CLEMATIS IN NEW MEXICO

LAST July I found an interesting and peculiar *Clematis* growing along the road-side in the town of Las Vegas, N. M., apparently wild. It was clearly related to the *Clematis* (*Atragene*) *occidentalis* (Hornem.) of the adjacent mountains, but still quite distinct. It did not come into full flower until the *C. occidentalis* was over, and the flowers were yellow instead of blue or white. Careful comparisons showed that the plant was different from anything known in America, so I drew up a description, under the name of *C. crux-flava*, 'the yellow cross.' During the rest of the summer I examined a good deal of the country near Las Vegas, and nowhere was the new *Clematis* to be seen, except within the limits of the town. A very vigorous plant was found growing in a garden, but nobody knew how it got there. These facts suggested an alien, so I sent specimens to Dr. B. L. Robinson at Cambridge, and to Kew Gardens, requesting that they might be compared with the Asiatic species. From both places in due time came the reply