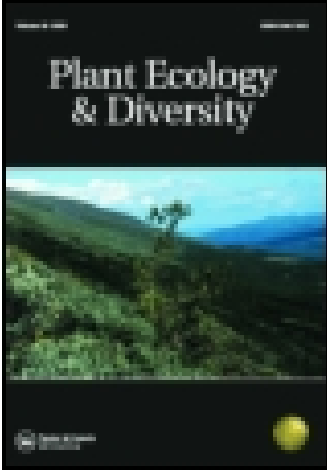


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I. Obituary Notices of the late Dr William Seller and of Professor Bertoloni of Bologna

Dr Cleghorn

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Rhododendron Dalhousianum; also a plant of *Richardia æthiopica*, with a double spathe. (Plate II. figs. 1-3).

9. The Rev. J. F. Leefe presented ten fasciculi of willows; Professor Jameson, Quito, sent specimens of ferns collected on the western slope of Pichincha; Dr John Lowe transmitted a specimen of *Claytonia perfoliata*, collected near Lynn; and Mr John Shaw, a specimen of *Alyssum saxatile*, found naturalised in grass fields near Eyemouth.

Description of Plate II. Figs. 1-3.

Fig. 1 represents the double spathe with a fertile spadix projecting, viewed partly from above.

Fig. 2 gives a side view of the same.

Fig. 3 shows the fertile spadix, with an apparently rudimentary second spadix attached.

Thursday, 10th June 1869.—Dr CLEGHORN, President,
in the Chair.

The following Communications were read:—

I. *Obituary Notices of the late Dr William Sellar and of Professor Bertoloni of Bologna.* By Dr CLEGHORN.

One of the duties which, by custom, devolves on the President of such a Society as this is to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of those members who have been gathered to their fathers. And first, it is my melancholy duty this evening to notice the loss of a former President, Dr William Sellar. Dr Sellar was born in Peterhead in 1798, being the only son of a merchant in that town. He was educated in Edinburgh, and was a distinguished student of the University, where he graduated in 1821. A classical scholar of no ordinary rank, a cautious and accurate observer, and a most kindly, genial, and courteous physician, he was much esteemed by his professional brethren, the students, and the general public. He lectured for many years on *Materia Medica* in the Extra Academic School, and was an Examiner to the Royal College of Physicians and to the University of Edinburgh. He received from the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in 1862, the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize for his admirable memoir of Professor Whytt, published in their

Transactions (vol. xxiii. p. 99); but his great modesty and unwillingness to write explains how so little from his pen remains on record.

In April 1843 he was elected a member of this Society, having been proposed by Mr Brand, and seconded by Professor Goodsir; and in 1857 he was elected to the office of President. He was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1848–50, and for twenty years he was one of the councillors, discharging also the duties of librarian for a considerable period. He delivered annually a series of lectures on mental diseases under the Morrison endowment in the College of Physicians. A portrait of Dr Seller, by Sir John W. Gordon, adorns the hall of the college. From 1854 to 1856 he was President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society. He edited for some time the "Northern Journal of Medicine," and afterwards he was for many years joint editor of the "Edinburgh Medical Journal."

The following is a list of Dr Seller's writings on botanical and physiological subjects:—

1. Examination of the Views adopted by Liebig on the Nutrition of Plants. Read to Bot. Soc. Feb. 13, 1845. (This paper was published in the "Ed. New Phil. Jour." vol. xxxix. p. 50.)
2. Observations on some Plants obtained from the shores of Davis' Straits. "Trans. Bot. Soc." ii. 215.
3. Notice of a Mass of Fragments of Fossil Stems found in the interior of Trap near Binny Craig, West Lothian. "Proceedings Bot. Soc." July 1856.
4. President's Address to the Botanical Society. "Trans. Bot. Soc." vi. 18.
5. On Vital Agency, with reference to the Correlation of Forces. "Proc. Roy. Soc. Ed." v. 209.
6. Physiology of the Farm in Aid of the Rearing and Feeding of Live Stock," published conjointly with Mr Stephens, author of the "Book of the Farm." 8vo, Edin.

In the professional journals above-mentioned he contributed several papers, as "The Character of Medicine as an Art," "Homœopathy the Last of Modern Delusions."

For three years Dr Seller had been somewhat failing in health, and ascites at last appeared. He passed away on 11th April 1869, aged 71. The College of Physicians surrounded the body while the last rites were being performed.

We have also to record the demise of the celebrated botanist, Antonio Bertoloni, M.D., Professor of Botany at Bologna, who died on the 17th ult., at the very advanced age of 94. On looking through the Proceedings of this Society, I find that the Council proposed the election of this veteran Professor as one of our Foreign Honorary Members on 10th December 1840.

Antonio Bertoloni was born in 1775, at Sarzana. His father was an artillery officer. In 1792 Antonio was sent to the University of Pavia, where he studied under the Professors Giovan Pietro Frank and Scopoli. He had a strong inclination to study mathematics, but these two friends induced him rather to devote his attention to medicine and botany. From that time, under Scopoli's guidance, Antonio began to collect plants in the neighbourhood of Pavia. His herbarium was lost in the sacking of that city by the French; and he himself left Pavia and repaired to Genoa, where, in 1796, he distinguished himself as a student of medicine. From thence he went to Sarzana, and practised medicine for some years. During this period of his life he studied assiduously the plants of his native country, and began to make for himself a name among botanists by the publication of his "*Plantæ Genuensis*" (1804). In 1811 he removed to Genoa, having been appointed Professor of Physics in the Lyceum, where he had favourable opportunities for studying botany in the beautiful Zerbino gardens of the Marquis Durazzo.

In 1815, by the advice of Professor Gaetano Savi of Pisa, Bertoloni was appointed Professor of Botany in Bologna, and the thought that had been suggested to him by Scopoli while still a student at Pavia, of giving a general flora of Italy, again presented itself. With great trouble and labour he collected, from all parts of the peninsula and of the surrounding islands, dried specimens, forming the richest Italian herbarium which had then been made. The publication of the "*Flora Italica*" was begun in 1833, and completed in 1854, and was followed by the "*Flora Italica Cryptogama*." Notwithstanding the labour of such a large work, conducted entirely by himself, and the publication of many memoirs on Italian plants, Bertoloni did not neglect foreign botany, as is shown by his "*Miscellanea Botanicae*,"

1842-1851, "Florula Guatimalensis," "Plantæ novæ Asiaticæ," and others, 1864-1865.*

Dr Bertoloni has contributed more to the knowledge of the plants of Italy than any botanist of this century, having been the able collaborateur of Tenore, Gussone, and Parlatore. This distinguished *savant* has published a great number of botanical works and memoirs. Most of his writings are in classical Latin, and of many of them a very small number of copies was printed. His library of classical works was one of the richest made by a private individual. Bertoloni had a wonderful memory, and a fortnight before his death he repeated verses which he had learned in his infancy. He bequeathed the original of his "Flora Italica" to the University of Bologna; to his son, Professor Giuseppe Bertoloni, who succeeded him some years ago in the chair of the University and in the direction of the Botanical Garden, his professional library and herbarium, both Italian and foreign; to his other son, Giacomo, his medical, surgical, and physical books; and to his nephew, Antonio, the classical collection above referred to. A very full list of his publications, amounting to thirty-six in number, will be found in the Index published by the Royal Society of London.

The following, arranged in chronological order, are the best known of his works:—

1. Rariorum Liguriæ Plantarum Decades i.-iii. 1803-10.
2. Plantæ Genuensis. Genoa, 1804.
3. Amcenitates Italicæ. 1819.
4. Description of Italian Saffrons. 1826.
5. Memoir on some Natural Productions of the Gulf of Spezia. 1832.
6. Mantissa Floræ Apium Apuanarum. 1832.
7. Commentarius de Mandragoris. 1835.
8. Elogio del Professore Ottaviano Targioni-Tozzetti. 1837.
9. Commentarius de itinere Neapolitano æstate anni 1834. 1837.
10. Florula Guatimalensis. 1840.
11. Iter in Apenninum Bononiensem. 1841.
12. Description of a new Species of Sida. 1843.
13. Miscellanea Botanica. 1842-46.
14. Flora Italica. 1833-1846.

* Professor F. Parlature of Florence has published an Eloge of Bertoloni, which supplies most of these facts.

The "Flora Italica" is indispensable in the systematic study of the plants of South Europe. Unfortunately, the Linnean system of classification has been followed; nevertheless, it is the best work for the student of the local vegetation, being well known for the accuracy of its descriptions, the soundness of its criticism, and the amount of research bestowed upon it in a long course of years. The works of Bertoloni on the Apennines were published in the "Novi Commentarii Bononienses," vol. v.

II. *Miscellaneous Communications.*

1. *Rubus deliciosus*.—Professor Balfour exhibited a drawing, executed by Mrs Balfour, along with fresh specimens of *Rubus deliciosus* of Torrey, grown in the garden of William Gorrie, Esq., at Rait Lodge, Trinity. The plant is a native of the Rocky Mountains, and is of a shrubby habit; bears large, light-pink flowers, and a large delicious fruit.

2. *Vegetable Poisoning*.—Dr Lauder Lindsay called attention to several cases of poisoning which had taken place lately in the Isle of Man. The cause had been attributed, by several newspapers, to eating the roots of the Woody nightshade, or Bitter-sweet (*Solanum Dulcamara*). Dr Lindsay, however, doubted that it could be this plant.

3. *Torientalis europæa*, var.—Charles Jenner, Esq., exhibited and presented to the Botanic Garden growing plants of a marked variety of *Torientalis europæa*, found by him in Glen Garry last year. He remarked that the plant principally differed from the common form by having more rounded leaves, the stem very leafy, and the flowers always lateral, thus approaching *Torientalis arctica*. It also flowers earlier than the common form.

4. *Exhibitions*.—Mrs Mooney, Mountmellick, Ireland, exhibited a series of skeleton leaves, tinted in various shades of violet, purple, and pink. Professor Balfour exhibited a collection of dried plants from Palestine, which had been collected and brought home by the Rev. Dr Andrew Thomson. Miss Walker, Drumsheugh, exhibited from Lady Leith Buchanan, a growing plant of *Athyrium Filix-femina* var. *Frisellæ*, found in a wild state at The Ross, Dumbartonshire.