

OPEN LETTERS.

Humblebees and *Rhododendron nudiflorum*.

In the April number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, mention is made by Gilbert van Ingen of the manner in which humblebees extract honey from *Petunias*. A similar instance has been presented to my attention in the case of *Rhododendron nudiflorum*. The humblebees uniformly alighted upon the limb of the corolla, and, crawling along the upper or inner side of the tube nearly to the calyx, punctured the corolla just above the ovary, and through the hole thus made, extracted the nectar. During the time I observed them, none attempted to obtain the honey in the legitimate method. To such an extent had these marauders carried their ravages, that it was with difficulty that a fully opened flower could be found on the whole bush that was not punctured. At the same time, however, several lepidoptera were observed extracting the nectar in the legitimate manner.

E. R. MEMMINGER.

Flat Rock, N. C.

Autumnal blooming of *Oxalis*.

I have just read (in the May GAZETTE) Professor Thomson's account of the autumnal blooming of *Oxalis*. I observed the same thing in an entirely undisturbed locality. Between Silesia and Crystal City, in Jefferson county, Mo., there is a sandy rock about two miles in length, and in its crevices this *Oxalis* was blooming, but without leaves. And curious enough the flowers were mostly white, so that at first I thought I had found a new species. I also found on the top of the rock *Allium striatum* blooming a second time, but when I went this year (in May) to the place I did not find many plants blooming. Last year we had a very dry summer, and in the fall good rains, and this, I think, will account for the autumnal blooming of these plants.

HENRY EGGERT.

St. Louis, Mo.

Letter to Botanical Club of A. A. A. S.

At the 36th meeting, to be held August 10-17 in New York City, the members of the Botanical Club will be entertained by the Torrey Club, and all pains taken to make the session memorable to both. The plans for entertainment have not yet been completed, but with the many places of interest in the vicinity of New York it is certain that the meeting can be made profitable to the botanists of the Association. Collections of plants from the vicinity are being made for distribution to the members, and it is proposed to give them an opportunity to collect fresh specimens. Arrangements are being made for receptions to promote social intercourse and mutual acquaintance, and a special effort will be made to present as many papers and matters of botanical interest as time will permit.

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