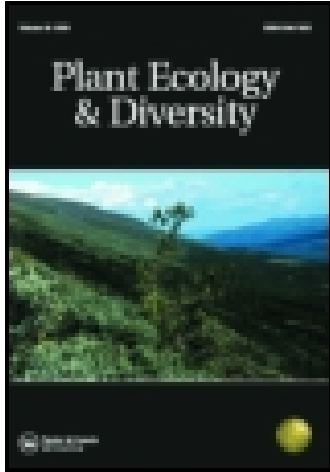


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I. On the Formation of a Museum of Vegetable Materia Medica

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10th March 1870.—Sir WALTER ELLIOT, President,
in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were duly elected Members of
the Society :—

1. *As a Resident Fellow.*

A. OSWALD BRODIE.

2. *As a Non-Resident Fellow.*

ROBERT W. FOSS, M.B. and C.M., Stockton-on-Tees.

3. *As a Foreign Member.*

SEÑOR ADOLPHE ERNST, President of the Natural History Society of Caracas.

The following motion, proposed by Dr Cleghorn, was adopted:—"That all papers intended for publication be submitted to the Council, who shall decide as to the propriety of printing in full or in abstract, and that a Subcommittee be appointed to revise the proofs."

Professor Balfour noticed the death of Professor Franz Xavier Unger, M.D., which took place suddenly at Gratz, on 13th February. He was one of the twenty-five Foreign Honorary Members of the Society.

Mr Sadler noticed the death of Dr Alexander Carroll Maingay, who joined the Society on 8th February 1855. He was very fond of cryptogamic botany; and while prosecuting his medical studies in Edinburgh, from 1854 to 1858, he assisted in re-arranging the large collection of Algæ in the University Herbarium. He read several papers to this Society; and on taking the degree of M.D., in 1858, he obtained a gold medal for his thesis, entitled "A Monograph of the British Parmeliaceæ," which was beautifully illustrated by several hundred drawings and specimens, and contained much original matter. On leaving Edinburgh he joined the Bengal army, and while serving in the last Chinese war, made a large collection of the plants of North China. He acted as colonial surgeon, Malacca, and in 1868 published "Notes on the Tapioca Plant (*Manihot utilissima*), as cultivated in the Malay Peninsula." (Jour. A. H. Soc. N. S. I. 184.) Ultimately he became superintendent of the jail in Rangoon, where he was killed in attempting to quell a mutiny amongst the convicts on 15th November 1869. Before his death he was engaged in investigating the flora of Burmah.

The following Communications were read:—

I. *On the Formation of a Museum of Vegetable Materia Medica.* By WILLIAM CRAIG, M.B. and C.M.

The author referred particularly to the formation of a complete Materia Medica Museum for the use of students. While admitting the great value of the Materia Medica collection in the University, which was now regularly consulted by students, and also the importance of the Herbarium of Medicinal and Economical Plants at the Royal Botanic Garden, which was open to the public, he thought that it would be well if the Society would assist in forming a museum to illustrate completely the British Pharmacopœia, by means of herbarium and laboratory specimens. In conclusion, he gave some illustrations of the mode in which such a museum might be formed.

II. *On the Fructification of Griffithsia corallina, with a Notice of the other Algæ found in Shetland, not mentioned in Edmonston's Flora.* By C. W. PEACH, A.L.S.

The author stated, that when dredging with Mr J. Gwyn Jeffreys, in 1864, off the Shetland Islands, he noticed, in a collection of Algæ made by one of Mr Jeffreys' daughters, at the West Voe Out-Skerries, some fine specimens of *Griffithsia corallina* in fruit, and as Miss Jeffreys kindly supplied him with as many specimens as he required, and as they were quite fresh, he placed some in sea-water under the microscope. On examining the whorls of tetraspores, he observed a circular opening at the lower part of the joint immediately over these masses. The edge of the opening was quite smooth, not in the least ragged as if ruptured; this opening he found constant over all the whorls of tetraspores he examined. He also noticed that the granular matter in the joints escaped through these openings on the whorls of tetraspores; and although these latter retained all their brilliant colour, the joints became literally colourless. He also found favellæ on some of the specimens, but not both kinds on the same fronds. He had not time to examine the favellæ carefully. He observed another thing on some of the specimens, of which he finds no mention in any of Harvey's works. On the