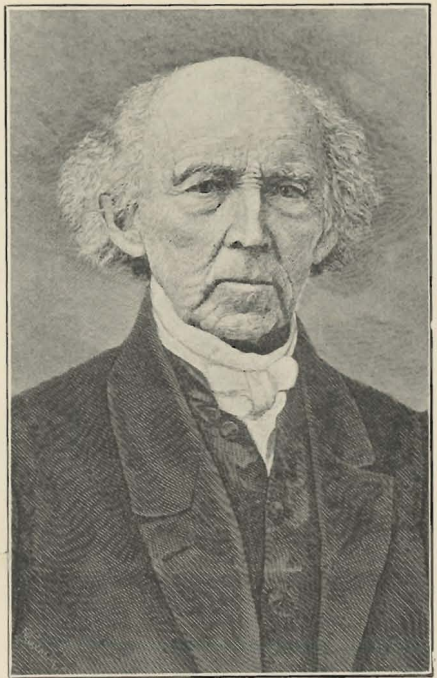


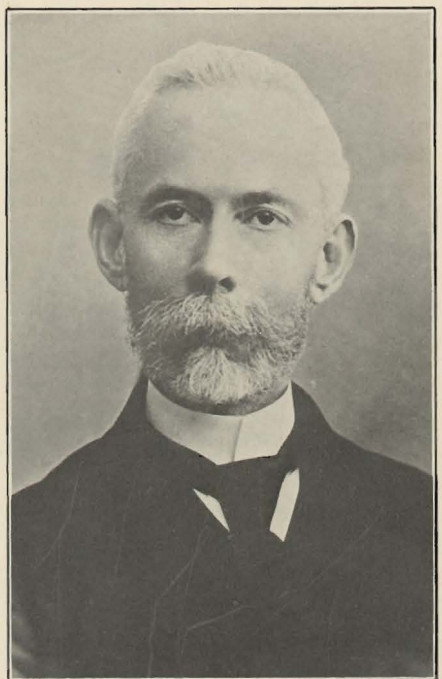
SAMUEL BEACH BRADLEY



CHESTER DEWEY



LAWRENCE HOLZER



EDWARD L. HANKENSON

EARLY BOTANISTS OF ROCHESTER AND VICINITY.

EARLY BOTANISTS OF ROCHESTER AND VICINITY
AND THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

BY FLORENCE BECKWITH.*

The systematic study of the flora of Rochester and vicinity dates back many years. There were individual workers in the field almost a century ago of whose labors, fortunately, the records have been preserved, and of whose lives we have more or less knowledge.

With the exception of Dr. Dewey, who was a teacher of botany, these early explorers pursued the study of this science from pure love of it and of nature, and with an earnest desire to thoroughly acquaint themselves with the flora of the region. Their energy and enthusiasm have been a great incentive to later explorers, and rendered it possible to make a comparatively complete list of the plants of this region up to the present time.

While the memory of the work and of the individual personalities of these early botanists is still fresh in our minds, the Botanical Section wishes to show its appreciation of their labors by giving the following brief sketches of their lives.

SAMUEL BEACH BRADLEY.

Dr. Samuel Beach Bradley was one of the earliest, if not the earliest botanist of this section of the country. The period of his work is covered by the years of his residence in Monroe County, from 1825 to 1880. His work along the shore of Lake Ontario and the

*When the Botanical Section decided to prepare sketches of the early botanists and prominent members of the Section, a committee consisting of Miss Mary E. Macauley, Mr. M. S. Baxter and the author was appointed to do the work. Through the hearty co-operation of all the members of the committee the following paper has been prepared. Miss Macauley contributed the sketch of Mrs. Streeter, and Mr. Baxter rendered valuable assistance in procuring material for the sketches of Father Holzer and Mr. Hankenson. The committee congratulates itself that through the kind assistance of various friends, it has been able to obtain pictures of all the botanists of whom sketches are given.

inlets and ponds adjoining was particularly thorough. Some of the plants which he found in that vicinity have since become extinct, and many others are extremely rare, but occasionally one is rediscovered by our later explorers.

As a botanist, Dr. Bradley had more than a local reputation. He is given as authority in the Fifth Edition of Gray's Botany and is often quoted in catalogues of plants. In "Paine's Catalogue of Plants of Oneida County and Vicinity," published in 1865, Dr. Bradley is given as the sole authority for twenty-one species of plants found in this vicinity, and in the List of Plants of Monroe County, New York, and Adjacent Territory, published by this Society in 1896, he was credited with eleven species which had not been reported by any other local botanist.

Dr. Bradley was not only an enthusiastic and capable botanist, but he was noted as a scholar, being well versed in seven different languages and having a great love for books. His extensive knowledge, however, did not prevent him from taking an interest in even the most humble and common-place person who claimed his attention, and he was always ready to help any student.

One of our present-day botanists says that when he first became interested in the study of plants, he heard of Dr. Bradley as being a great authority in botany and as having a fine herbarium, so he determined to make him a visit. This necessitated a drive of several miles, for the young botanist lived in the western part of the county. He met with a very cordial reception, Dr. Bradley making particular inquiry as to what plants the young student was specially interested in, and taking great pains in showing him his herbarium, treating him with all the consideration he would have shown a grown-up person. It was a memorable afternoon for the young visitor, and it goes without saying that he drove home to Adams Basin a very proud and happy youth, more than ever interested in botany.

In person Dr. Bradley is described as being rather stout with broad shoulders and a fine head. His forehead was broad and high and his eyes dark and brilliant, lighting up as he became interested in conversation. His manners were cordial and his hospitality unbounded. Cheerfulness, love of humor, ready wit and quick repartee were among his prominent characteristics.

He retained his interest in botany as long as he lived, and the last few months of his life were devoted to naming and rearranging the plants in his herbarium. The greater part of his herbarium was given to the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, but a portion of it was donated to us by Dr. Daniel G. Hastings, of this city. Dr. Bradley died at his home in West Greece in 1880, at the age of 84 years. A more complete sketch of his life was published by this Society in 1894. (*Proc. Roch. Acad. of Sci.*, Vol. 2, pp. 261-263.)

CHESTER DEWEY.

In 1836 Dr. Chester Dewey came to reside in Rochester. For many years he had been deeply interested in botany, and his "History of the Herbaceous Plants of Massachusetts" had been published by that State. He had also begun a Monograph of the Carices, his studies of which extended back to 1824.

In a sketch of Dr. Dewey, published after his death, President Anderson of the University of Rochester said: "He early became an enthusiastic student of botany and contributed very largely to the scientific knowledge of the Carices," and Dr. Asa Gray spoke of his writings on Caricography as "an elaborate monograph patiently prosecuted through more than forty years." Dr. Gray further said that in connection with the eminent botanists Schweinitz and Torrey, Dr. Dewey laid the foundations and insured the popularity of the study of the sedges in this country.

As a professor in the University of Rochester, Dr. Dewey interested many students in the study of botany, and the flora of the vicinity of the city was very thoroughly collected and examined many times. The Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York contained a paper by Dr. Dewey entitled: "Catalogue of Plants and Time of Flowering in and about the City of Rochester for 1841," but, unfortunately, he did not publish a complete record of his work in this region. In an admirable biographical sketch published by the Academy in 1900, (*Proc. Roch. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. 3, pp. 182-185) Mr. Charles W. Seelye pays a warm tribute to Dr. Dewey as a man, as an instructor, and as a botanist, saying the influence which he exerted by his

enthusiasm in his study of plants had passed onward and outward over a great region, and that some of the botanists of the present time owe indirectly to him their interest in botanical studies. Dr. Dewey's botanical work in Rochester extended from 1836 until 1866 or 1867, for up to the last of his life his mind retained the vigor and enthusiasm of his early years, and he was constantly writing on scientific topics.

LAWRENCE HOLZER.

The Reverend Lawrence Holzer was another of the early botanists and collectors of this region. He was born at Ratisbon, Bavaria, September, 1819, and graduated at the head of his class from the university of that city. He took Holy Orders in 1845, joining the order of Redemptorists, and two years afterwards came to this country as a missionary. In that capacity he was eminently successful, his eloquence winning many to religion who were deaf to less persuasive preachers.

Father Holzer was at St. Joseph's Church in this city from January, 1847, to July, 1848; from May, 1862, to August, 1865; and from May, 1875, to December, 1876, the time of his death. In the years 1862 to 1865 he was Rector of St. Joseph's, and endeared himself to the congregation by all of the ties which unite pastor and people.

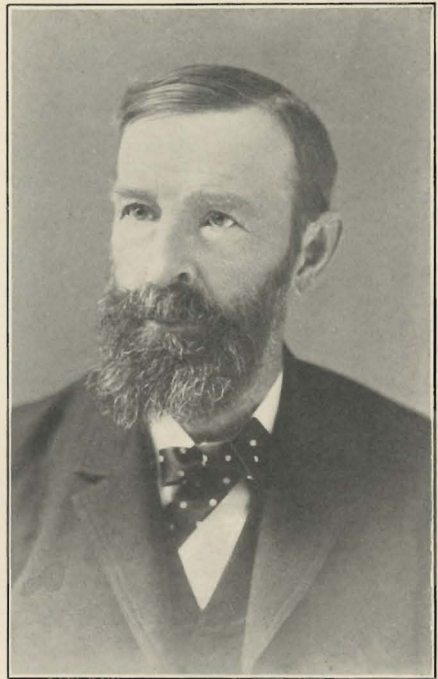
As a missionary he traveled extensively in this country, and was well-known from New Orleans to St. Paul, and from the east to the west of the continent.

Father Holzer was well known to many persons not of his religious faith. With Dr. Chester Dewey he had formed an intimate friendship through their mutual love for plants and interest in botany, and Dr. Booth and Mr. J. B. Fuller were also personally acquainted with him.

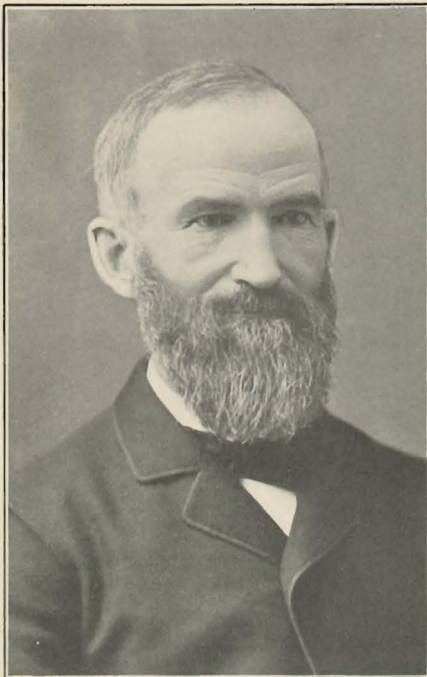
He was an enthusiastic botanist, and the garden at the pastoral residence was adorned with many rare plants of his collecting. As a collector, he was indefatigable, and he explored the city and vicinity very thoroughly. His check list shows that he had collected 766 species and varieties of plants in and around the city.



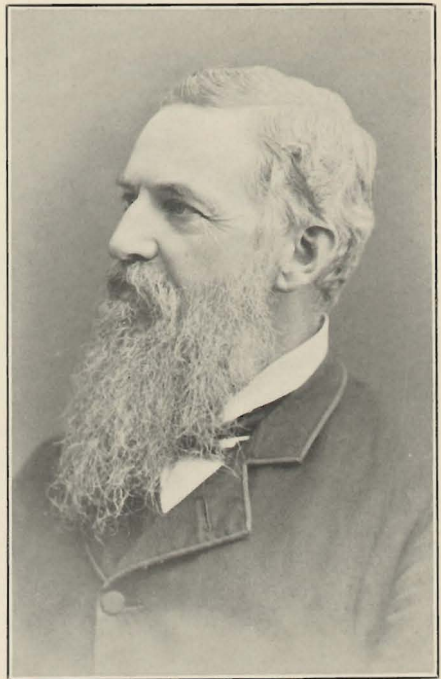
MARY E. STREETER



CHARLES W. SEELYE



CHARLES M. BOOTH



JOSEPH B. FULLER

EARLY BOTANISTS OF ROCHESTER AND VICINITY.

When collecting he gathered quantities of specimens which he sent to societies and institutions in Europe. Once in speaking of this he said: "I gather for all Europe,—all Europe." His large and valuable herbarium is deposited at Mt. St. Alphonsus, Esopus, N. Y.

Those of our members who were acquainted with Father Holzer, have spoken of him as being of very genial manners and particularly good company when on botanical excursions. Like all our collectors, he especially enjoyed excursions to Bergen swamp, that Mecca of western New York botanists, and his rapturous exclamations over the rare specimens found there still linger in the minds of those who heard them nearly forty years ago.

One of Father Holzer's personal possessions, which was kindly loaned our committee by the present Rector of St. Joseph's Church, shows how interested he was in botany and how his love for plants was interwoven with his daily life. In a little leather-covered memorandum book he had copied in his fine German hand the whole of some botany. Pocket editions of botanies were not then obtainable, and it was evident that he had made this copy in order to have it with him at all times for ready reference in field work. In the back part of the book were descriptions of plants which were useful in medicine.

Father Holzer's command of English, judging from the contents of this memorandum book, was quite equal to his knowledge of his own language, for he sometimes used one and sometimes the other with equal facility.

Father Holzer's death was universally regretted by the citizens of Rochester. It was felt that the church had lost a zealous and faithful priest, society a valued member, and science an energetic and learned disciple.

MARY E. STREETER.

Although there had been for so many years such an interest in the flora of this vicinity, there was no regularly organized botanical society in Rochester until in 1881.

April 13, 1881, Mrs. Mary E. Streeter called a meeting of those interested in botany, at her home on Scio Street. Eleven persons responded to the invitation, and then and there the Botanical Section

of the Rochester Academy of Science was formed Mr. George T. Fish was President the first year and Mrs. Streeter Secretary. In February of the next year, Mrs. Streeter was elected President, which office she retained until her too early death

The aim of the Section was the systematic study of botany and the collection and identification of the plants indigenous to Rochester and its vicinity, with the design of publishing a complete list of the flora of Monroe County.

After the organization of the Botanical Section, the principal workers in our botanical field became members of it. A number of them have passed away, and it is fitting that the Section should make acknowledgment of its indebtedness to them and should give brief sketches of their lives and their work.

Among the Berkshire Hills, in the quiet little town of West Otis, Mass., Mary Elizabeth Bosworth was born, January 1st, 1842. At an early age her dying mother committed her to the care of an elder brother, Henry W. Bosworth, a well-known judge in Springfield, Mass. As a sacred charge he inspired and directed the little sister, and with this unusual guidance, among the breezy hills, she imbibed a love of nature in all its forms, and acquired a breadth and independence of thought and action not uncommon among those who "lift up their eyes unto the hills," instead of narrowing their vision by the limitations of city walls.

An apt, enthusiastic scholar of bright mind, she easily succeeded in whatever she undertook. She attended the High School in Hartford, Conn., when it stood well in the lead among the educational institutions of New England, and afterward attended the State Normal School at Westfield, Mass.

She taught in a private school in Belvidere, New Jersey, where she was greatly beloved and very successful in awakening and stimulating her pupils. With pronounced executive ability, she later took charge of a Young Ladies' Seminary, at Chester, Penna.

After three years of teaching, she married on February 24th, 1865, a gallant young officer just returning from the Civil War, Major William Streeter, who had also been bred among the hills and had kindred tastes. They located in Rochester in 1868.

By over-zeal in her profession, Mrs. Streeter's health, which was never robust, had become somewhat impaired, and after a happy

wedded life of twenty years, during which every care had been bestowed upon her, she was called home June 14th, 1885.

Of Mrs. Streeter's zeal and enthusiasm in carrying on the work of the Botanical Section, many members still live to give their testimony. From the beginning, she felt that the first work of the Section should be the collection and preservation of the plants growing in the vicinity, before a catalogue could be published. During the four remaining years of her life, she labored, and inspired others to labor with her in the same cause, so that before her death she had the pleasure of seeing many of the plants of Monroe and adjacent counties mounted and placed in cabinets for the use of the Society. She also secured gifts of plants from other botanists with whom she corresponded.

But Mrs. Streeter's ambition went beyond the accumulation of a herbarium. With her eager thirst for knowledge, she longed to push out into unknown fields, and unquestionably, had her life been spared she would have attempted, at least, the solution of some of the unsolved problems of plant life. The writer well remembers the statement once made by Mrs. Streeter that she was willing to devote all her time of study to the vegetable kingdom. The turmoil and strife of historical narratives wearied her. In the peace and quiet of the plant world she found the rest and satisfaction she craved, for she ever looked "through Nature up to Nature's God."

Among the papers contributed by Mrs. Streeter to the meetings of the Botanical Section were: "Cross Fertilization of Plants," "On the Order Compositæ," "Ferns of Rochester and Vicinity," "On the Order Ranunculaceæ," and "Plant Histology." Besides the formal papers, she gave many talks on various topics relating to Botany.

While not caring to take time from her beloved botany to study with intensity the animal kingdom, Mrs. Streeter felt great kindness for animals. She saw the necessity of training children to look upon the lower animals with sympathy, and she was instrumental in having Bands of Mercy formed in many of the Rochester schools. And here, perhaps, it will not be inappropriate to mention a companion without whose assistance much of the labor of collecting plants could not have been accomplished in her frail state of health. This companion was her gentle horse, Bonny, who would wait with utmost patience while

her mistress wandered into the woods or stopped by roadsides, and yet would push on briskly whenever speed was necessary. Those who had the pleasure of accompanying Mrs. Streeter on these excursions—and she loved to take her friends with her—all felt that Bonny was an ideal horse for a botanist. Nor would it be quite just to omit the mention of Gypsy, her dog, who was usually a guard on the botanical trips.

Mrs. Streeter was a lover of good literature, in which she was well versed. She often gave her friends great pleasure by reading aloud some excellent story or fine poem. Her retentive memory held in its keeping many passages from which she would add to her conversation in a most delightful way. Her sense of humor was strong, and she thoroughly enjoyed Lowell's Bigelow Papers. Whittier, too, was a favorite author.

Mrs. Streeter's death was a great loss to her family, her friends, the Botanical Section, and the community. Her memory is still precious, although years have passed away.

CHARLES W. SEELYE.

Mr. Charles W. Seelye, one of the charter members of the Botanical Section, was born at Greenwich, Saratoga County, N. Y., in 1829, and came to this city with his parents in 1835. Rochester was his home until his death, which occurred March 10, 1907.

In his youth Mr. Seelye studied dentistry, but not being robust he abandoned that profession and taught school. He afterward became associated with the late James Vick on the editorial staff of the *Genesee Farmer*. In 1844 he established the Rochester Central Nurseries, the firm being composed of C. W. Seelye and Hiram Sibley, with office located at East Main and Union streets. Later he became associated with James Vick, his brother-in-law, in editing Vick's *Quarterly*, which was superseded by Vick's *Magazine*. After the death of Mr. Vick, he continued to edit the *Magazine* for many years.

As a writer Mr. Seelye had few equals. His information on horticultural and botanical subjects was far-reaching and thorough, and his style elegant, polished and forceful. The diversity of his

knowledge was remarkable, but he was particularly well-read on horticultural subjects and his information on all newly discovered or recently introduced plants was always up-to-date and reliable.

He was a landscape artist of more than local repute, being frequently called upon to plan and lay out grounds and cemeteries. He drew the plans for one of Rochester's most beautifully planted streets, Portsmouth Terrace, which was opened after the death of James Vick, nearly thirty years ago. The late George Ellwanger regarded the collection of trees and shrubs planted in this street as particularly choice for such a purpose, and the scheme has been largely copied in other cities.

Mr. Seelye was a charter member of the Western New York Horticultural Society, established in 1857. His reports as chairman of the Committee on Flowers and Bedding Plants were always of interest and profit. An arrangement had been made with him for a series of sketches of the men who were prominent in the history of horticulture during the past fifty years, but failing health prevented him from carrying out this project. He was greatly interested in the culture of grapes and for a number of years owned a fine vineyard at Vine Valley on Canandaigua Lake. He is credited with having originated several varieties of this fruit.

As a writer on horticultural subjects Mr. Seelye had an extensive experience, not only being editor of *Vick's Magazine* for many years, but also of "How to Grow Flowers," published at West Grove, Pa. He was the author of "The Language of Flowers," "How to Make a Lawn," the "Farmer's Handbook," and a game of cards designed to teach botany. He was a fine French scholar and took pleasure in gathering around him a coterie of young people with whom he read and discussed the literature of France.

Mr. Seelye was an ardent lover of flowers and early began the study of botany. He was a pupil of Dr. Chester Dewey and in June, 1895, contributed a memorial sketch of him for a meeting of the Academy of Science. In this sketch Mr. Seelye paid a warm tribute to Dr. Dewey and the influence which his interest in botany exerted over his pupils, and, indirectly, on succeeding generations. (*Proc. Roch. Acad. Science, Vol. 3, pp. 182-185.*)

Mr. Seelye was from the beginning one of the most interested members of the Botanical Section, contributing material for

study and examination, and reading papers on various botanical subjects. At one time he was Corresponding Secretary for the Section. Though the infirmities of his later years prevented attendance at the meetings, he retained his interest in the work of the Section up to the very close of his long life. He was a fine general botanist, but for many years he devoted the most of his attention to collecting and studying ferns. In 1891 he contributed a very able article entitled: "A List of the Indigenous Ferns of the Vicinity of Rochester, with Notes," to the proceedings of the Academy (*Proc. Roch. Acad. Science, Vol. 1, pp. 186-197*).

In 1895 he made a gift of his large collection of ferns to the Academy. This collection contained most of the ferns of Australia and the Sandwich Islands, and many specimens from various other parts of the world, including New Zealand, South Africa, India, Ceylon, South America, Jamaica and others of the West India islands, as well as Great Britain and North America, in all numbering about 1,500 specimens. Nearly all the specimens were mounted and all were encased in a black walnut cabinet made expressly for them. He also presented to the Academy a number of books and publications relating to the filices, some of them very rare and costly, the whole making an exceedingly valuable gift.

In the letter which accompanied the gift, Mr. Seelye said that "the collection, examination, study and preparation of these specimens had been for many years an unfailing source of interest and information" to him, and he wished them to pass into the possession of the Academy for the use of its members. This collection, with the rest of our herbarium, is on deposit at the University of Rochester, and is open for inspection by those interested. In appreciation of this valuable gift, the Academy of Science made Mr. Seelye a Life Member of the Society, November 11, 1895.

Mr. Seelye was a warm friend, always ready to give advice and counsel when consulted, particularly on botanical subjects, and was esteemed by all for his courtesy, his kindness of heart and his quiet and unassuming disposition. His memory should always be cherished by the Botanical Section, not alone for his valuable gift of ferns, but for his warm interest in its affairs and its progress.

JOSEPH B. FULLER.

Mr. Joseph B. Fuller was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., October 31, 1827, and died in Rochester, February 16th, 1910.

When he was only three years old his family moved to Rochester, coming by way of the Erie canal and stopping on their arrival at the old Rochester House, on the corner of Exchange and Spring streets, then one of the prominent hostelries of the city.

At the age of fourteen, Mr. Fuller was apprenticed to the late Henry O'Reilly to learn the printer's trade. Later he was with the *Genesee Farmer*, published by the late James Vick and edited by the late Patrick Barry.

Being for years in close relationship with Mr. Vick in the printing office, and the two being drawn together by a mutual love of flowers, it did not require much persuasion to induce him to go into the seed business. In 1863 he entered the employ of Mr. Vick, and continued almost uninterruptedly with the Vick firm from that time until failing health, about a year before his death, necessitated his giving up active work.

Mr. Fuller's influence in the development of the business was scarcely second to that of Mr. Vick. His whole life was bound up in the work and his whole energy devoted to it. He was a thorough seedsman, far-seeing, conscientious and accurate. His knowledge of stocks was extensive and thorough; his judgment and accuracy were without equal; and his honesty unimpeachable. To his perfect integrity and absolute reliability the success of the Vick seed business was in no small degree due.

Mr. Fuller's geniality was one of his most prominent characteristics. He had a good story apropos to every occasion. His reminiscences of the early days of Rochester, and of the volunteer fire department, of which he was a member for many years, were particularly enjoyable. With his fellow workers in the seed business he was always pleasant, kind, patient and forbearing, with the old-time courtesy of manner. He will always be remembered in the seed house as "the grand old man."

On entering the seed business, Mr. Fuller soon realized that a knowledge of botany and especially of the local flora would be of great assistance to him in his work, and he entered enthusiastically into the

study of systematic botany. He devoted himself so thoroughly to field work, that in a few years he reached a point far beyond the practical requirements of his business. He had, however, become so thoroughly in love with field study that he never lost interest in it, and even in his later years, after he had become too feeble to make excursions, he was always eager to examine the results of the explorations of other workers. Mr. Fuller's work as a botanist extended back to 1851. He was an ardent collector, a most faithful, painstaking, conservative and conscientious botanist.

When he began collecting, a great portion of what is now within the limits of the city was covered by the forest. He used to speak of jumping over the fence at Union street and botanizing in the thick woods all over the ground now occupied by the University buildings. The banks of the river on both sides from the upper falls down, afforded a rich field for botanizing, and Mr. Fuller probably explored it more thoroughly than any other collector. In the territory between Vincent street bridge and the old Hanford's Landing, a distance of two and a half miles, he found five hundred different species and varieties of plants. It is doubtful if a better record can be shown anywhere for the area covered. So thoroughly did he explore and collect in that vicinity, that very few plants were left to be reported by later botanists. The growth of the city has destroyed many of the species and the local names of the stations have passed from the memory of all except the oldest inhabitants, so the record of Mr. Fuller's work is all the more valuable.

Mr. Fuller was Curator in Botany to the Academy of Science for many years, and a devoted member of the Botanical Section, contributing much material to the meetings, and, by common consent, acting as supreme authority in the determination of specimens. His exact, critical knowledge often resulted in amusing disappointment on the part of less experienced members, who had brought in plants thinking them to be something entirely new, only to be told that they were some well-known species.

For several years Mr. Fuller devoted all his time to classifying, naming and arranging the plants in the herbarium of the Academy, generously donating to it his own large collection, numbering over 2,500 specimens, and also a fine collection of Syrian plants.

In recognition of these valuable gifts, the Academy made Mr. Fuller a Life Member of the Society and in 1899, in accepting his annual report as Curator, it was moved and unanimously carried that the Academy extend a vote of thanks to him for the exceeding interest he had manifested in the herbarium of the Society, for the great amount of work he had done, and the time he had spent in classifying and arranging the specimens. (*Proc. Roch. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. 3, p. 273).

When the List of Plants of Monroe County and Adjacent Territory was published, Mr. Fuller did much arduous and painstaking work in its preparation. In fact, to his untiring labors, his accuracy and his zeal, the completeness of the list was largely due. He was so conservative that unless he was absolutely sure in regard to the determination of a plant, it was denied a place or a number in the list.

Not only did he perform much labor in the preparation of the list, but in the actual printing of it he did still more heroic work. It was difficult to find a compositor sufficiently familiar with botanical terms to set up the list in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Fuller came to the rescue, and, though it was years since he had stood at the case, he set all the type for this work of more than 150 pages. One has but to examine this publication and note the great amount of detail in it, to realize what a remarkable achievement this was for a man of his years, as well as from a typographical standpoint.

The Botanical Section has had many faithful members, but among them all Mr. Fuller stands pre-eminent for untiring service for the good of the Society and generous contributions of his valuable collections of plants.

CHARLES M. BOOTH.

Dr. Charles M. Booth, another of our early and indefatigable botanists, was born in Middlebury, Vermont, in October, 1830. He came to Rochester when he was about twelve years old, and obtained his education in the public schools and High School of this city. He studied medicine with the late Dr. E. M. Moore, and obtained his degree of M. D. from the University of Woodstock, Vermont. For some time after his graduation he was in the office of Dr. Moore.

When about 21 years of age, Dr. Booth, in company with two other Rochester young men, went to Valparaiso, South America, with the intention of engaging in the preparation of quinine, for exportation. Unfortunately, just after the arrival of these young men in South America, the Chilian government forbade the exportation of quinine. Thrown upon his own resources, Dr. Booth engaged in other occupations, practicing his profession, teaching school, conducting a drug store and a book store; he also worked as an engineer, and in the mines. After about ten years in 1861, tiring of the Southern country, he returned to the United States.

After his return to Rochester, Dr. Booth bought some land on the Culver Road, in the town of Irondequoit, and this was his home until his death, January, 1906. His intention in buying the land on which he made his home for so many years, was to engage in the cultivation of fruit, and that he did raise splendid fruit, many of his friends can testify, for his kindness of heart and generosity were proverbial. Though it was several miles from his home to the center of the city, he always walked into town, invariably refusing all neighborly offers of a ride. His inseparable companion on his trips to the city was a covered willow basket, holding, perhaps, about a peck. Many were the gifts of pears, apples, grapes and other fruit which his friends received from him. So inseparably was this basket connected with him, that on his death a friend begged it to hang on his wall as a memento, and many other friends will long remember the basket and its generous owner.

One of the greatest charms of Dr. Booth's home was his garden. It was not a formal garden, nor was it all in one plot. All the dear old-fashioned flowers were there, as well as many more recently introduced ones, and these were scattered around in different parts of his grounds. Many of our native plants had a home in his garden, and these were carefully planted in locations as nearly like their native habitats as possible. Some particularly rare species flourished as well in his garden as in their natural environment. *Rhododendron nudiflora* or *Azalea nudiflora*, the Pinxter Flower, one of the sweetest and most beautiful of our native plants, is difficult to transplant successfully. It may live a

year or two in its new home, but it seldom becomes established sufficiently to blossom, and after lingering for a while it generally gives up the struggle for existence. But Dr. Booth had a splendid bush of this *Rhododendron* which he transplanted thirty years ago from its native woods, and which is still every season covered with its beautiful pink blossoms.

The generous spirit in which he placed everything in his domain at the disposal of his friends added another charm to visits there, and a walk around his grounds was always full of interest and delight. After taking his visitors all around his garden and noting every rare plant and flower, he would invariably say: "And now we will have some practical botany," and this "practical botany" consisted in sampling the choicest fruits of his orchard.

One rare specimen which Dr. Booth raised, and of which he was very proud, is a large tree, a hybrid between the English Walnut and the Butternut. This tree has attracted the attention of many botanists, and Dr. Charles S. Sargent, of the Arnold Arboretum, once paid it a visit.

When quite young, Dr. Booth became interested in botany, and such was his reputation in that study that when it was proposed to found a college at Havana, N. Y., he was offered a position as Professor of Botany. The endowment of Cornell University by Ezra Cornell prevented the building of the proposed college at Havana, and thus Dr. Booth lost a position which he would have filled with honor and credit to himself, and profit to the cause of education.

Dr. Booth was a charter member of the Botanical Section, and for many years a regular attendant at its meetings and a contributor of papers and material for examination. He was a man of wide reading and extended research, a fine general botanist, and exceedingly careful in determining specimens. His explorations around Irondequoit Bay were so thorough that he seemed to know every foot of ground. He was the first botanist in this country to discover the blossoms of *Lemna trisulca*, and is so credited in the Fifth Edition of Gray's Botany. In our List of Plants of this Vicinity, published in 1896, he is credited with many rare plants, and in our Supplementary List, lately published, he is authority for a large number of species.

His studies in later years were mostly among the grasses, mosses and algæ. His large collections of these plants have been given to the Academy, and will take their place in our herbarium. It was hoped that Dr. Booth would make his study of the mosses of this region so complete that it could be published by the Academy, but the infirmities of his later life prevented his accomplishing this.

Dr. Booth and Mr. Joseph B. Fuller were intimate friends and co-workers for many years in the field of botany. Mr. Fuller used to enjoy telling how, in his earlier botanical excursions, he frequently caught sight of another man carrying a tin collecting case, and wondered who he was. After a time their paths crossed, and it did not take long for them to form an acquaintance, which lasted until the close of their lives.

After the publication of our List of Plants of Monroe County, in 1896, the enthusiasm of all the members of the Botanical Section was newly aroused. Dr. Booth and Mr. Fuller were greatly interested, and made frequent trips up and down the railroad tracks, searching for recently introduced weeds, and never returned without securing more or less specimens new to our locality. The advent of the Russian Thistle was confidently expected at that time, for it was reported as on its way east, and many of our botanists were looking out for it, but Dr. Booth was the first to find it. He was remarkably quick to recognize a new plant; sometimes when walking along the street, conversing with a friend, and apparently not particularly interested in his surroundings, he would quietly step one side and gather an entirely new species, one which no one else had thought of looking for. As long as his strength permitted him to roam abroad, he was constantly on the lookout for new introductions, and as constantly finding them. The Botanical Section owes much to the labors and researches, the quick eye and trained mind of Dr. Booth.

In character, Dr. Booth was one of the most unassuming of men, gentle, quiet and retiring, enjoying to the utmost the freedom of his country life, with its flowers and its fruits and its opportunities for doing unostentatious deeds of kindness. His neighbors speak of him lovingly as one of the best of men, and one of them says that to her he was the most like Thoreau of any one she ever knew. To some of us he will ever be an exponent of the simple life.

The garden which he loved is being encroached upon by the busy world, on whose borders it lay for so long a time, but something of its charm is still left and we hope will exist for many years to come. It will be a great loss to the lovers of nature when Dr. Booth's garden is entirely blotted out.

EDWARD L. HANKENSON.

Mr. Edward L. Hankenson, a Corresponding Member of the Academy, was born in Newark, N. Y., March, 1845, and died in the same town in February, 1910. His education was obtained in the Newark High School, and at an early age he entered his father's business, developing it, as years went on, into the well known establishment of Hankenson & Son, and continuing in it until his death.

When about seventeen, Mr. Hankenson began a careful study of botany, and devoted years to this most congenial pursuit. It was not only his great recreation, but he had the ambition to make a complete collection of the flora of Wayne County, and most thoroughly did he explore every portion of that territory. He became an authority on the plants of the region, and for a time conducted a class in botany in the Newark High School. For years he was in personal correspondence with the most eminent botanists of this country, including Asa Gray, Alphonso Wood, Dr. John Torrey, Dr. J. W. Robins, Mrs. Lincoln Phelps, and many others.

Upon the organization of the Botanical Section, Mr. Hankenson became much interested in its work, frequently attending the meetings and contributing many specimens for the herbarium, representing not only the flora of Wayne County and our own neighborhood, but other parts of the country as well. When the List of Plants of Monroe County and Adjacent Territory was published, Mr. Hankenson was authority for hundreds of specimens from Wayne County. After his death, through the kindness of Mrs. Hankenson, his large herbarium, comprising a complete collection of the plants of Wayne County, also many foreign specimens, became the property of the Academy and is incorporated with our other possessions.

One marked characteristic of Mr. Hankenson's work in connection with the flora of Wayne County, was his demand for absolute accuracy. Before making a record, he insisted on seeing the

actual plant. One of the most noteworthy plants in his list, *Cypripedium arietinum*, when reported in Wayne County, was far from any other recorded station. This specimen, a single plant, was collected by other botanists, but Mr. Hankenson, by an exchange, succeeded in obtaining it, and it is now in our herbarium, the only specimen known to have been found within the limits of our territory.

One who knew him well has said: "In character, Mr. Hankenson was singularly reserved, though warmly expansive to those of kindred mind. Gifted with a remarkable memory, by constant reading he stored his mind with the best to be obtained from literature, thus adding to his native inborn culture. Clear and clean-minded, most Christian in his judgments, unselfish, unflinching, uncomplaining,—to those who knew him best his life will ever be an illustration of the Christ example, and the memory of his home life will be a lasting memorial of his beautiful, consistent character."

WORK OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

In a report of the Botanical Section made June 11, 1881, Mrs. Streeter, its founder and first Secretary, said: "The work of making a collection of the flora of the vicinity of Rochester is thus fairly commenced, and we believe the work is in the hands of those who will not rest from their labors as long as there is one herb, shrub, or tree in our neighborhood that has not yielded up at least one of its secrets."

The founder of the Section and many other members have passed away, but the work is still being carried on. Looking back over the thirty years of its existence, the members of the Section can see that some of the dreams of its founder have been realized, and we can only regret that she was not longer permitted to share in the work and in the measure of success obtained in making a collection of the flora of this vicinity. A brief history of what has been accomplished is of interest in this connection.

Ever since its organization, the Section has met regularly, with varying attendance as to numbers, but during that period there has been no suspension of meetings except occasionally for brief summer vacations.

During the early years of the Section, the meetings were held at the rooms of the Academy, then located in the Reynolds Arcade. When the Society changed its headquarters to the University of Rochester, in 1889, on invitation of Mr. Streeter, the Botanical Section met at his residence, and ever since that time his house has been generously and hospitably opened to us. The Section has greatly appreciated the privilege which has been so cordially and generously accorded it for twenty-two years. There is no doubt that this hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Streeter has had much to do with the continued life of the Section, as well as with the successful work done, for Mr. Streeter's extensive library and microscopical resources have always been at the service of its members, and having a permanent meeting place has added to the feeling of stability, which is essential to the success of any society.

In 1896 the Academy published a List of Plants of Monroe County and Adjacent Territory, prepared by a committee of the Botanical Section. This list comprised 1208 species and varieties of plants found growing without cultivation in Monroe County, and 106 in adjoining counties, in all, 1314 species and varieties. In 1910, a committee of the Section prepared a Supplementary List, which was published by the Academy. In this list the number of plants reported in Monroe County (including the list of 1896) is 1387, the total number for Monroe County and vicinity being 1584.

And the work has not ceased. The members of the Section are still collecting and studying. We still have among our number as enthusiastic and indefatigable workers as those who have passed away. Already 40 or more additional species have been reported since the Supplementary List was published in May, 1911. The recent work of prominent botanists on the *Cratægus*, Violets, Ferns, Grasses and other groups has revealed many unsuspected species, and has opened a field for renewed efforts among the flowering plants of this vicinity, and in the cryptogams there is a wide opportunity. The work on the mosses which Dr. Booth began should be carried on to completion.

Our herbarium now comprises more than 15,000 specimens. We have been given the large collections of Mr. Fuller, Mr. Seelye, Dr. Booth, Mrs. Streeter, and Mr. Hankenson. Other members of the Section have been generous, and have contributed specimens from

Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, and other parts of the United States, so our herbarium is not limited to the plants of this region, and it is not only of goodly size, but of great working value.

The Section is open to all members of the Academy, and it cordially welcomes to its meetings those who take an interest in the plants of this vicinity.