

BOTANICAL NOTE.

TWO NEWLY INTRODUCED EUROPEAN PLANTS.

Among some plants recently presented to the herbarium at the Central Experimental Farm by the Rev. Brother Marie Victorin of Longueuil College, Que., were specimens of two introduced European species, which are of more than usual interest, viz.: the beautiful so called Flowering-rush, *Butomus umbellatus*, L. and the strong-smelling Danewort or Ground Elder, *Sambucus Ebulus*, L. These two plants are easily recognized. *Butomus* is a water plant of great beauty, which is classified by some botanists with the Water-plantain Family, the Alismaceæ and is there placed in the "Hand-list of Herbaceous Plants of the Royal Botanic Gardens", Kew (England), 1902, but in Gaston Bonnier's "Flore complète de la France" the Butomeæ are ranked as a separate family on account of their nine stamens. The genus *Butomus* is interesting also from the fact that it bears ovules all over the internal surface of its carpels. *Butomus umbellatus* is referred to by the eminent English botanist, Dr. Leo. H. Grindon, as "one of the handsomest plants England produces. It is well-known under the erroneous name of Flowering-rush and is frequently cultivated in botanic gardens." This plant has tall stems two to four feet high, bearing at the summit of each a large umbel of showy rosy-red flowers. The peduncles are from three to four inches long, and each bears three rosy petals and three similarly coloured sepals, which inclose six carpels and nine stamens. The leaves are linear, two to three feet long, acutely three-edged and more or less spirally twisted at the tips. Brother Victorin writes that he first collected this species about two years ago, when it was identified for him by his confrère the Rev. Brother Roland Germain, who knew it well in France. The first specimens were found at Laprairie on the St. Lawrence River, opposite to Montreal, in 1905, then in 1906 at Longueuil and Beauharnois, and in 1907 at Chateauguay. Brother Victorin believes that it also grows around the Boucherville Islands, a few miles below Longueuil. The Rev. Professor Oliver of Mont St. Louis, Montreal, has found the plant at Valois on the Island of Montreal. Brother Victorin feels confident that *Butomus* ripens its seeds at Longueuil, and this certainly seems to be the case from specimens which he has forwarded. The plant grows there to a considerable height, notwithstanding the late date at which the water recedes from the river flats where it occurs, so that it cannot appear above the surface