

be produced artificially by crossing and may be accounted for not as mutations or atavists but as a natural consequence, following a combination of the units. Thus has this conception of unit characters revolutionized the whole manner of thinking and since it is happily capable of experimental proof it has served to place the great problem of the amelioration of races in an entirely new light.

March 25th, 1911, at the home of Mr. R. B. Whyte, members present sixteen. Mr. Whyte was the speaker, and gave an interesting account of a recent visit to Florida and Georgia, and the impressions gathered during two weeks observations. His observations were not confined to the botanical features of the country, but whether applying to the botany, the horticulture, the country itself, or its people, the impression which they almost uniformly gave was one of poverty. The soil, except in a few instances, which were referred to, supported very sparse crops or natural vegetation, being in places almost pure silica, and generally short of soil moisture. Among the few herbaceous plants growing wild were lupines and what was taken to be a magnolia, and the principal trees were cypress, magnolia, live oak and Georgia pine. Close grass turf such as we know is never seen, as the Bermuda grass which takes the place of our grasses there, grows always in tufts.

Of particular interest to a northern botanist were the cypress "knees" which are produced where these trees grow in water. Also the "black moss" or *Tillandsia* which festoons the branches of trees everywhere, and gives them a funereal aspect, which becomes very depressing. With regard to the Georgia or "long-leaf" pine, it was observed that its seedlings, unlike those of our white pine, were able to start freely without any protection or shading whatever.

Notwithstanding the poverty-stricken appearance of its agriculture, this part of the South is enjoying somewhat of a land boom. Large plantations of pecan nuts, and of oranges and grape fruits are being set out. Within recent years many superior varieties of pecans have been obtained, and their propagation promises to become an important source of revenue for the South.

Specimens of various varieties of pecan nuts were shown, as were also the *Tillandsia*, a seedling Georgia pine, and a sample of the sponges obtained in a large commercial way in the Gulf fisheries.

H.G.