

The O. A. C. Review

THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

VOL. XIX.

MAY, 1907.

NO. 8.

The White Water Lily.

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THERE are few flowers more striking than those of the White Water Lily. They are conspicuous not merely on account of their size, though they are amongst the largest of our native flowers, nor solely on account of their intrinsic beauty, though the elegance of the white waxy cups poised upon the surface of the water, is of a quality hardly to be surpassed. The interest merited by the size and beauty of the blossoms, is increased by the contrast with the still surface of the deep waters in which they delight, and the abundance of floating green foliage by which they are surrounded. There is, too, a tantalizing charm in the inaccessible situation of the plant, for the White Lily, unlike its near relative, the Yellow Water Lily (*Nuphar*), disdains the shallower pools, and does not readily surrender its spoils to a land attack. Even to the occupant of boat or canoe the tough, slippery flower-stalks offer more resistance than might be anticipated, and the unwary collector, instead of securing conveniently the coveted bloom, may end by dragging up twenty or thirty feet of slimy water-

weed, or even by incurring an involuntary wetting.

To the student of botany, water plants possess a special interest. The peculiar conditions under which they live have brought about modifications of structure in marked contrast to those of typical terrestrial plants. Water plants, too, of widely separated families, living under similar conditions, become altered in the same direction so as to bear superficially a close resemblance to one another. Many aquatic plants, like the hornwort, the water milfoil, and some water buttercups spend their entire life submerged in the water. Obviously the circumstances of life must be very different in these cases from the conditions surrounding the ordinary land plant. To be immersed in a fluid medium in which the tissues lose a large proportion of their weight; to have the supply of mineral food brought into contact with the entire plant surface; and to be cut off from all supplies of oxygen and carbon dioxide, except what exists in dilute solution in the water, must necessitate profound modifications in the structure and habits of a plant. We