

A NEW NORTHERN ANTENNARIA.

By EDWARD L. GREENE.

ANTENNARIA ATHABASCENSIS. Stout and low, the pistillate plant at flowering only 2 to 2½ inches high, the spread of the depressed and rosulate foliage in some approaching 3 inches: leaves subcoriaceous, spatulate-obovate, very obtuse, without evident mucro, the petiolar basal part not at all well differentiated and short, upper face dull pale green, glabrous except as to some rolls of light loose flocculent or cottony wool along the margin, beneath densely silvery, tomentose, some of the tomentum projecting beyond the edge of the leaf and appearing from above as a white margin to the leaf: inflorescence of 3 to 5 large sessile heads: involucre loosely tomentose at base, the bracts all with very long white tips, the outer broad and nearly truncate, the next narrower and acutish, the inmost series fairly subulate and exceeding all the others in length: male plant not seen.

Fort Chippewyan, Athabasca, 4 June, 1903, Edward A. Preble; type specimens in U. S. Herb. A very strongly marked member of the group of *A. neglecta*, but a coarse and stout plant as to habit, though low in stature. The heads are as large as those of the Rocky Mountain *A. aprica*, but in character very different from those of that species.

THE SWAN SONG OF THE LEAVES.

By MARY ELIZABETH MCQUAT, B.A.

These leaves that redden to the fall.—Tennyson.

Among the more commonly observed phenomena of nature it is doubtful if there is any more commonly misunderstood than the coloring and fall of leaves in autumn. When the plain green of summer changes so suddenly to gold and crimson most people take it for granted that the frost is responsible for the transformation. But anyone who will take the trouble to think a little will see that this is a mistake. It is in August, long before the frost comes, that the red maple "crimsons to a coral reef," and it is in years when the frost comes late that the leaves color most beautifully.