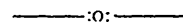


duced no appreciable modification of surviving plants and animals, who vast a period must have been required for that marvellous scheme of organic development which is chronicled in the rocks? After careful reflection on the subject I affirm that the geological record furnishes a mass of evidence which no arguments drawn from other departments of nature can explain away, and which, it seems to me, cannot be satisfactorily interpreted save with an allowance of time much beyond the narrow limits which recent physical speculation would concede." In conclusion the President referred to the geological features of Edinburgh, which had furnished so much material for enjoyment during his life.

H. M. A.



BOOK NOTICE.

THE CULTIVATED NATIVE PLUMS AND CHERRIES (BULLETIN 38. CORNELL UNIVERSITY EXPT. STATION, JUNE 1892.) BY L. H. BAILEY.

In this monograph of 73 pages Prof. Bailey has embodied a large amount of practical information as well as accomplished the very difficult task of making a thorough classification of our native Plums and Cherries.

With plums the work has been particularly complicated, and only the most patient study and research could have been rewarded by such gratifying results.

Up to the present time our cultivated native varieties have been roughly assigned to three wild types. (1) *Prunus Americana*, Marshall the plum of the north and west (2) *Prunus angustifolia*, Marshall, or *P. chickasa*, Michx., native of the middle and Southern States and (3) *Prunus maritima*, Wangheim, known as the Beach plum of the south. Much confusion existed however as many of the cultivated forms could not be satisfactorily assigned to any of these original types. Prof. Bailey says, "There has been no attempt so far as I know, to make a comprehensive study of these fruits and as a consequence our knowledge of them is vague and confused. In fact, the native plums constitute probably the hardest knot in American pomology. Their botanical status is equally unsatisfactory and the group is one of the most inextricably confused of any of equal extent in our whole flora." As a result of