

and brilliant life, its matchless nervous activity, its extreme muscularity, its voluntary power to augment animal heat. Such contrivances, subtle and unexampled, reconciles the paradox of a being, microscopic in corporeal dimensions and remarkable for the minuteness of the bulk of its blood, sustaining a frame, graceful in its littleness, yet capable of prodigious mechanical results."

SOME STATISTICAL FEATURES OF THE FLORA OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC,

AND A COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES FLORA.

By A. T. DRUMMOND.

The recent issues by Prof. Gray of a fifth edition of his *Manual of Botany of the Northern United States* and by Mr. Horace Mann of a *Catalogue of the Phænogamous Plants of the United States east of the Mississippi*, have suggested the thought that with the materials for a flora of Ontario and Quebec, which have been for some years accumulating, the prominent statistical characteristics of our local vegetation might now be indicated with reasonable certainty, and a fair comparison instituted between them and those of the flora of the United States. That any statistics given will, in coming years, be altered in consequence of additions made to our flora, is certain. There is reason to believe that a considerable number of phænogamous and filicoid plants not at present known to occur within our geographical limits, will yet be detected there. Whilst, however, these statistics are not invested with absolute certainty, they can, I think, be regarded as fair general conclusions.

The works of Michaux, Pursh, Hooker, Torrey and Gray, etc., afford much information regarding the flora of this part of the continent, but since their publication our knowledge of it has been greatly extended. Foreign as well as provincial scientific journals have within the past few years contained valuable papers on the subject of Canadian botany. The institution of a society, whose special aim was the promotion of botanical research in our midst, infused for a time much interest in the study, and resulted in the accumulation of considerable material for a provincial flora. Some of the papers and catalogues were published in the society's 'Annals,' but many are still in manuscript. To these