

The Plants of Buffalo and its Vicinity.

BY DAVID F. DAY.

It is quite certain that before the establishment of the BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES no one had undertaken to investigate the Flora of Buffalo and determine what plants it comprised.

It is true that at rare intervals some of the early botanists and collectors had visited our neighborhood. As long ago as 1749, KALM, a contemporary and correspondent of LINNÆUS, made an excursion to the Falls of Niagara, and, undoubtedly, collected some of the remarkable plants of that locality. In 1806, PURSH, the author of "*Flora Americæ Septentrionalis*" (as we are informed in his preface) "traversed the extensive and highly interesting country of the Lesser and Great Lakes." In the following year, MICHAUX, the younger, while engaged in a botanical exploration in western New York, traveled from Batavia to Buffalo, recording some interesting observations respecting our primæval forest; and, some fifteen or twenty years later, DRUMMOND and DOUGLASS, distinguished botanical explorers, made collections of plants at Niagara. Unfortunately, however, only the scantiest and most unsatisfactory record reaches us of the labors and discoveries of these pioneers of botanical science in this vicinity.

Probably the earliest botanist who had a permanent residence in Buffalo, was Dr. JOHN A. KINNICUTT:—in 1828, one of the physicians of the village. In "*The Flora of the State of New York*," TORREY makes acknowledgement of having received from Dr. KINNICUTT some of our more notable plants: but, aside from this brief mention, we have no account of his botanical labors.

Upon the organization of the BUFFALO SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, in December, 1861, a Committee on Botany was appointed, consisting of the Hon. GEORGE W. CLINTON, the Society's first President, Dr. CHARLES C. F. GAY, and the compiler of the present Catalogue. In the spring of 1862, the Committee began an investi-