

to get at the oats beyond.

All this is conceded ; but whether the offspring of such smart animals inherit the advanced position reached by their sires and dams, and thus in time an elevation above the old level is attained by a whole family, is a moot point. The Darwinians would call such clever individuals the "fittest" among their contemporaries ; but whether they have any special advantages in the struggle of existence, and thus are "selected" by nature, can scarcely be regarded as established by proof. But Dr. Mills may claim to have established by proof that inherited capacities and acquired knowledge must be regarded as co-ordinate factors in the development of general animal intelligence.

An interesting side issue has been raised in this volume. It grows out of the demonstration of the superior energy and earlier catering power of mongrels, as compared with pure bred animals. Does this also hold of the human race ? Are we in this way to account for the characteristic qualities of the Englishman of to-day ? Has he, too, acquired by the mingling of the blood of many nations in his veins, activity and catering force at the expense of modesty and gentleness ?

R. C.

PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES OF SYSTEMATIC BOTANY.—Address of Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, Ph.D., Retiring President of the Botanical Society of America, delivered before the Society, August 28th, 1901. Reprinted from "Science," Vol. xiv., No. 352.

In this comprehensive address, Dr. Robinson touches on some of the most important practical matters requiring to-day the attention of botanists. His experience as Professor of Botany and Curator of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University, must have impressed upon him the lack of uniformity and the absence of the precision in the manner of dealing with specimens, on the part of his correspondents ; and he invites botanical workers everywhere to co-operate in securing the best systematic results. He attacks the prevailing desire to erect new species, and criticises, perhaps not too severely, the looseness of description too often furnished by those claiming to have discovered such species. As a partial remedy for the wordy analyses with which he finds fault, he would not be averse to seeing the adoption in America of the use of Latin for the purpose of plant description, as that language