ARNICA CANA is a name needed to replace that of *A. incana*, Greene, Pitt., iv, 169; there being an *Arnica incana* of Persoon of much earlier date.

ARNICA CROCINA, Greene, Torreya, i. 42, first published in Pittonia, iv, 159, by the untenable name of *A. crocea*, is now in hand from two additional stations. It is Mr. James Macoun's No. 26,931 from dry slopes north of Chilliwack Lake, 26th July, 1901; also No. 34,074 of the Canad. Geol. Surv., collected by J. R. Anderson, 1901, from Mt. Cheam, north of Chilliwack River, B.C.

THE SPOTS ON THE EGGS OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON.

By W. E. SAUNDERS.

Some ten years ago I was surprised to receive from Frank L. Farley, then at St. Thomas, but now ranching in Alberta, a set of eggs of the Great Blue Heron which bore a goodly number of jet black spots, and as these spots would not wash off, it was manifest that they were a part of the egg! Although this conclusion was easily arrived at, it was not a satisfying one, as I well knew that all (?) herons' eggs were normally unspotted. In 1900 Mr. Robertson, Aylmer West, Ont., sent me a fine set of five of this species, all of which show more or less of this peculiar spotting. At intervals this problem would recur to my mind, until at last, one day it dawned on me that these herons, at St. Thomas and Aylmer, were within ten or twelve miles of Lake Erie, and I knew that the pound-nets set by the fishermen for sturgeon, etc., were a favourite feeding ground for these birds; and, moreover, that the fishermen soak their nets with a compound of pitch. This solved the problem. Clearly the birds got pitch on their feet, off the nets, and carried it home for the sole purpose (?) of beautifying their eggs. But if this were the case, then a solvent of this pitch compound, such as ether or carbon bisulphide, would dissolve and remove these spots. This theory proved to be correct, and a diligent application of ether to one of the spots removed it. It is plain, therefore, that the spotted eggs would belong to birds who fished in the lake, and that those who fed entirely at smaller