

Assistance has been very freely taken from many sources. The basis of the book is Macoun's Catalogue. Very free use has been made of Howell's Flora of North West America, Piper's Flora of Washington, Coulter and Nelson's Flora of the Rocky Mountains, Frye and Riggs' Northwestern Flora, Gray's New Manual, etc. Students who desire illustrations will find photographic representations of many of our most striking mountain plants in Mrs. Henshaw's "Mountain Wild Flowers," and in Brown and Schaffer's "Alpine Flora of the Canadian Rockies."

In the matter of classification I have in general, as far as Genera are concerned, followed the conservative tendencies of Gray's New Manual; i.e., large groups are preferred to the minuter classification of the North-American Flora. Thus *Potentilla*, here regarded as a single genus, is in the latter work sub-divided into half-a-dozen. As to what constitutes a species it is useless to look for uniformity. There will always be "lumpers" and "splitters." With the strong present tendency to multiply species, the writer does not sympathize. Here again Gray's New Manual sets a sane example. The same plan is followed to some extent by Coulter and Nelson, who have made a notable effort to control the growing tendency to sub-division by reducing many so-called species to synonyms. Dr. Fernald's treatment of *Brunella vulgaris*, in which slight variations are regarded as forming varieties and forms rather than independent species, may be cited as a model. To determine what constitutes a species is by no means easy. Thus at the Coast there are 3 well marked native Roses, each with many variations. It seems desirable to recognize these forms, yet if new species are proposed, they must, in the nature of things, be ill defined and quite unworthy to be placed in the same rank as the species from which they are separated. In such cases the treatment in some English Manuals seems preferable to the practice of many American botanists. Doubtless the "splitting" characteristic of the unrecedented activity in American Botany for the last twenty years will soon give place to the broader conception of what the "lumper" considers constitutes a species. This conclusion I have reached gradually during my work, and fear I have not quite freed myself from the prevailing tendency to sub-division.

A few words may be said regarding nomenclature. After many of the descriptions in this book a second and sometimes a third name may be found. These are called synonyms. Thus *Rubus nutkanus* Moc. after: *R. parviflorus* Nutt. indicates that the Thimbleberry was first named by Thomas Nuttall, and that later Mocino, doubtless in ignorance that the plant already had a name, gave it another. In such cases evidently the earliest specific name should be maintained. But there are also synonyms of another kind. In the genus *Fragaria* *F. Helli* Holtz is given as a synonym of *F. bracteata* Heller. In this case there are two more or less distinct plants, but the characteristics which distinguish them are too slight to warrant their being considered really distinct species. Indeed, it is quite likely that *F. bracteata* might well be considered a synonym of the eastern *F. vesca* L., a plant first described by Linnæus. Lastly, when, as not infrequently happens, two writers describe different plants under the same name, it becomes necessary to give one a new name, and to mention the original name as a synonym. Sometimes two authors are given with a species. Thus, if *Potentilla Multisecta* be regarded as a distinct species, the correct form taken by its name would be *P. multisecta* (S. Wats) Rydb., indicating that Sereno Watson first described the plant, and that Dr. P. A. Rydberg now gives it specific standing. The only specific names now capitalized are some old Linnean generic names still retained for species and those derived from the names of persons; e.g. *Lepidium Draba*; *Veronica americana*; *Salix Hookeriana*.

Many persons make more or less extensive collections of plants. Their first impulse is to get specimens of striking or rare plants, which they preserve in scrap books. It is much better to attach the plants to separate