

Systems of classification proposed by those who followed more or less faithfully the models of work furnished by De Candolle and Robert Brown grew and multiplied exceedingly; for many years in succession there was one of some pretensions each spring; the most noteworthy were those of Bartling, Endlicher, Brongniart, and Lindley, which bring us down to the time when evolutionary ideas began to assert their ferment-like influence.

It is not possible for us within our limits to follow the modern progress of systematic botany. The gist of a physiological discovery may often be stated briefly, but discoveries in classification require much exposition. That there has been great progress is certain. As Professor Marshall Ward has said, "The competent historian of our branch of science will have no lack of materials when he comes to review the progress of botany during the latter half of the Victorian reign. The task of doing justice to the work in phanerogamic botany alone, under the leadership of men like Hooker, Asa Gray, Mueller, Engler, Warming, and the army of systematists so busily shifting the frontiers of the various natural groups of flowering plants, will need able hands for satisfactory treatment. A mere sketch of the influence of Kew, the principal centre of systematic botany, and of the active contingents of Indian and colonial botanists working under its inspiration, will alone require an important chapter, and it will need full knowledge and a wide vision to avoid inadequacy of treatment of its powerful stimulus on all departments of post-Darwinian botany."

---