a part of the most elementary instruction in botany.[1]

" 1. Where is the first diverging point of the stems and roots in plants, that is to say, the first geniculum?

" 2. How do you explain the origin of those leaves on the stem which, not arising from distinct geniculi, are placed spirally or scattered around the stem?

" 3. Why do some plants, especially trees (contrary to the ordinary course of development in plants), blossom before they have put forth leaves? (Elm-trees, willow-trees, and fruit-trees.)

" 4. In what succession does the development of the organs of the flower take place? — and their formation in the bud? (Compare Campanula, Papaver.)

" 5. What are the leaves of the Spergula?

" 6. What are the tufted leaves of various pine-trees? (Pinus sylvestris, Strobus, Larix, etc.) . . .

" 18. What is individuality in plants? "

The next letter contains Agassiz's answer to

[1] Botany owes to Alexander Braun and Karl Schimper the discovery of this law, by which leaves, however crowded, are so arranged around the stem as to divide the space with mathematical precision, thus giving to each leaf its fair share of room for growth.