

THE SENIOR THESES.

The Senior theses of this year are valuable records of original work. T. A. Williams has prepared a "Preliminary Descriptive List of Nebraska Lichens." This is almost entirely original work. Mr. Williams succeeded in getting hold of about 135 species of lichens, which is a large number for a state like Nebraska. These he has examined and described in his own language, thus making a perfectly authentic list based upon specimens actually seen by the cataloguer. This thesis will consist of from 16,000 to 18,000 words. As the title indicates, the list is preliminary and Mr. Williams expects to continue his investigations and enlarge the list as new species are discovered.

H. J. Webber has undertaken and brought to completion a very laborious task. It is nothing less than a "Preliminary Catalogue of the Flora of Nebraska." This consists of about 25,000 words and is complete so far as any collected specimens are in existence. About 900 flowering plants are listed and nearly an equal number of cryptogams. The list is founded upon herbariums actually examined, and the exact localities where each species has been found is cited. References are made to the specimens on which each entrance is made: Mr. Webber has been working for several years on this catalogue, and has himself done a large share of the collecting and identifying necessary. The lichen list of Mr. Williams has, of course, been utilized, and Mr. Pound assisted largely in the "imperfect fungi." It may be interesting to note that fifteen of the plants are new to science, three being discovered by Mr. Pound and twelve by Mr. Webber.

Miss Helen Aughey treats of the "The Structure of the Leaf of *Populus monilifera*." The gross and minute anatomy of the leaf of the cottonwood was studied with great care, resulting in a thesis covering about fifty pages of closely written descriptions, with tables and numerous diagrams. The peculiarities of the structure are mainly due to the fact that the narrow flexible petiole permits the blade to droop into a vertical position, thus exposing both surfaces about equally to the light. The thesis, besides being praiseworthy from a scientific standpoint, shows a very smooth and entertaining literary style.

E. R. Tingley has worked up the geology of Lancaster county. He has given a history of all formations and traced the development of the natural features now seen. The stratigraphy, topography and paleontology are fully described. Eighteen plates of drawings, containing nearly one hundred figures add to the value of the thesis. Nearly all fossil shells and plants of the county are illustrated.

G. W. Gerwig has traced the "Sentence Structure Development in English." The authors from Chaucer down to modern English and American authors have been made the subject of the investigation. The classification has been made upon two bases—the number of predications to a period and the proportion of simple sentences. The conclusions reached are put in tabulated form and show that among English authors, Macaulay has attained greatest success in the matter of simplicity, and among American authors, Emerson is to be ranked first in this respect. General Grants "Memoirs" rank high according to both standards. The results of Mr. Gerwig's investigations tally closely with the results reached by Professor Sherman in his investigations of sentence length.

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