

—Photos by M. E. Meeker.

The 200 beautiful photographs, many of them colored by hand, illustrating the wild garden in Glenwood park and the native flowers of the Adirondacks, exhibited by Miss Mary E. Meeker at the state fair, may be seen hereafter on application at the public library.

For the remainder of the season Miss Butler will conduct parties through the wild garden according to appointments by telephone.

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SMART WEEDS, not for their enterprise in taking possession of the wet lowlands wherever they can get foothold, or for their smartness of attire, many species, being decked with brightly colored, graceful, drooping flowers or spikes of rich shades of rose graded down to pale pink, flesh color and white, which brighten large expanses of meadow—but because, if tasted, the acrid, peppery sap will make one's mouth burn or smart.

A very humble relative—small-leaved, prostrate and a spreading pest, unnoticed except when you investigate the cause of the disappearance of the velvety turf on your lawn—is the knot weed, or dooryard grass. Do not be misled by the latter name, for it is not a grass. The term knot weed refers to character of the family—the enlargements or "knots" of the stem just below the sheathing stipules. These are close together on this plant and the most noticeable feature, for the greenish flowers in the axils of the leaves are exceedingly small. The weed well illustrates the meaning of the generic name, *polygenum* (many knees or joints).

The water pepper, an aquatic *polygenum* with oblong, floating leaves, has a heavy, rose-colored spike that beautifies the borders of ponds.

The tear-thumb, a malignant *polygenum* with sparse white flowers, forces acquaintance, when we are botanizing in meadows, by making jagged wounds with its sharp, reflexed teeth that bristle on the edges of the angled, prostrate stem.

The familiar, climbing false buckwheat, a slender vine with pendant racemes of small, greenish white flowers, is another species of this large genus. This will remind you that the cultivated buckwheat, *Fagopyrum*, is a cousin of the *polygenums*.

A wild morning glory, *Convolvulus sepium*, is everywhere present, running over waste places and doing good service by concealing unsightly objects with its lovely large flowers of pale pink or white, and making dense tangles in the woods, which in the struggle to break through, forcibly impress one to renounce it as a weed. Being common and a weed it is not properly appreciated. It might be improved and varied by cultivation, and it would outrank its relative, the tame morning glory, *Ipomoea*, as a porch vine, for it is a perennial and can always be depended upon to furnish shade. A certain piazza in Nova Scotia decorated with a long established specimen of bindweed is admired by all who see it.

A turtle takes a daily sunning on a rock in the little pond in the wild garden. His tall held stiffly erect suggested to some one a marlingpike, the tool that is associated with a boatswain. Accordingly the turtle was dubbed *Bos'n*, and a little one that has lately appeared, *Bos naticus*. Very appropriately, a plant with white-flowered spikes, named *Cheilone* (turtle), graces the sides of the same pond. It is easy to understand how the name turtlehead was applied to this plant growing in the damp places that turtles frequent, when one has an opportunity to compare the lift of the animal with those of the flower.

Who has not seen a tall, stout weed with a long dense spike of sweet scented flowers with rather large, reflexed, yellow petals? But how many take the trouble to know its name, *Oenothera biennis*, or common evening primrose? The flowers are succeeded by stiff, four-angled pods splitting at the top, from which the seeds are threshed out by the wind. The seeds that sprout will form a rosette lying flat on the ground and made up of row upon row of oblong leaves narrowed at the base and becoming shorter and shorter above and towards the center—a fine example of one of the methods of preventing overshadowing. The rosette has varied autumn tints and survives the winter to form from a central bud an erect flowering stalk that often branches like a candlestick, and completes its course when the seed is ripened. Such plants are biennials like many garden vegetables, cabbage, beet, etc. In flower, this weed decorates the roadside. Some native *oenotheras* are prized ornamental plants, particularly, *O. fruticosa* (sundrops), a low perennial of easy cultivation and with bright yellow, profuse blooms.

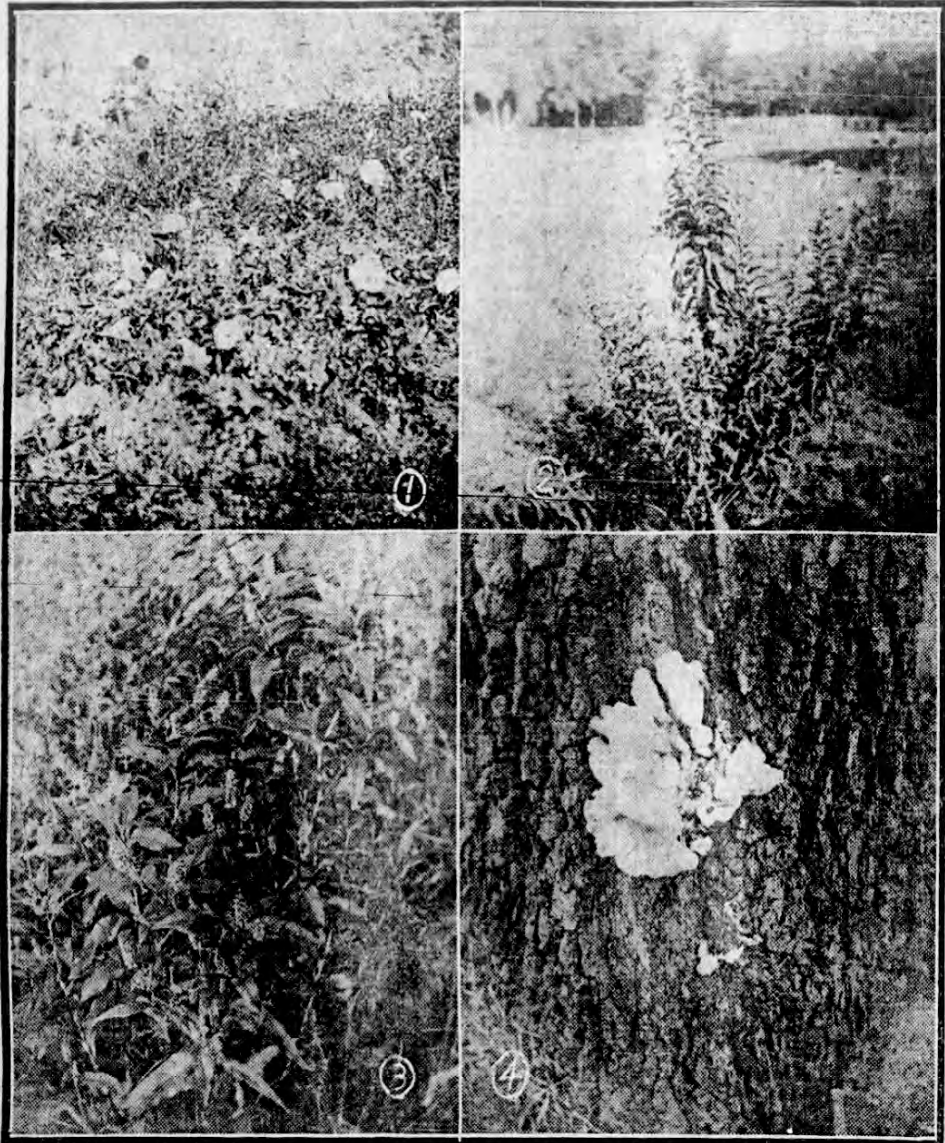
The season must not go by without some attention to the ferns. The dearly loved shade or vernal plants flower and disappear when the trees are fully leaved. Then we find but few plants in bloom in the woods, and most of our pleasure in woodland walks, aside from the trees, comes from observing the fungi and the ferns. These do not usually need strong sunlight for their

development. The stragglingness of ferns is wholly due to their foliage. The leaves or fronds of restful green and usually finely dissected are types of delicacy and grace. Justly popular is our one species of maiden-hair fern, that favorably compares with the exotic forms cultivated in greenhouses. Maiden-hair ferns are characterized by dark, polished leafstalks, and branched leaves of many pinnules with marginal spore cases protected by little, in-turned teeth. Groups of these ferns in the wild garden have fronds that are fully three feet high and that measure eighteen inches across.

The shelf-like mushrooms found on stumps and trees may be called bracket fungi. Some of the woody forms are used for brackets in summer cottages and are often etched with fanciful designs. Many of these fungi belong to the genus *polyporus* (many pored). The under surface of the bracket is stud-

ded with minute pores—the terminations of tubes which are lined with spores. Such fungi are harmful to trees. Through a fissure in the bark the spores gain entrance, germinate, and form a network of fibers that prey upon the wood. The bracket grows out from these threads and is the fruit of the plant. Some of the softer brackets are edible when young, among them the sulphur *polyporus* figured above growing on a scarlet oak. This fungus, as one would infer from the name, is bright yellow in color. *P. betulinus* particularly affects birches. It is dull gray, while other species are a rich, red brown. Sometimes the bracket fungi assume strange shapes. Some have been found that resemble the head of Napoleon. Some species are phosphorescent and light up the dusky woodland with a ghostly glow that makes the bones of the timorous quake.—Eloise Butler.

Acrid Taste Gives Name to the Smart Weed; Miss Butler Describes Wild Grasses in the Park



1. Wild Morning Glory. 2. Evening Primrose. 3. Smartweed. 4. Sulphur Polyporus.