

MY HEPATICAS.—One of the interesting things for the botanist or the gardener to do at this time of year, is to remove to some spot in his garden a few of the most attractive wild plants which abound in our woods, swamps and fields. Last year, I removed some plants of blood-root, tooth-wort, spring beauty, phlox, squirrel corn, several species of violets and several *varieties* of hepaticas. These are near the house and are a constant source of delight to the children, visitors, members of the household, and I hardly need add to the person who transplanted the flowers. These were removed as they were found with a little earth about the roots.

Two or three plants of the hepatica were chosen for the pure white of their flowers, others for their delicate pink color, others for the large size of their flowers, others for the deep blue of the flowers; still others were selected for their double flowers. This spring the hepaticas are all true in their peculiarities. One of the blue varieties has already begun to sport. One stem bore two flowers near the top and another three. On a much larger scale I am collecting plants for a wild garden on the bank of a brook and a small pond near the green-house. Here we have a variety of soil from pond to muck or dry sand; from perpetual shade to a full exposure of the bright sun. Here are ferns and grasses, some shrubs and some of the most interesting hardy wild plants. It is a favorite spot for all who live at the College.—*W. F. Beal, Michigan Agricultural College.*

BOTANICAL NOTES.—The Botanical Gazette for April, contains, among other articles, bryological notes by C. H. Austin; new species of Colorado fungi, by C. H. Peck; late Rhode Island flowers, by W. W. Bailey; Coniferæ of the Crestines, by T. S. Brandegee. The bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club for March contains descriptions of new species of North American *Uredinei*, and an interesting table showing the dates when the leaves fall, by N. L. Britton, who states that "the female in dioecious plants appears to hold its foliage longer than the male." Caruel's New Botanical Journal (Italy x, No. 2), contains an article on the floral structure and affinities of various monocotyledonous families.

In the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* are two important papers, one by S. H. Vines, on Researches into the Nature of Lichens, and a very important paper, well illustrated, by J. C. Ewart, on the life history of *Bacillus anthracis*.

ZOÖLOGY.¹

HELIX CHILHOWEËNSIS Lewis.—I have lately had the pleasure, after a pedestrian excursion of nearly one hundred miles, over the roughest of mountain roads, to collect this rare species in its normal habitat.

¹ The departments of Ornithology and Mammalogy are conducted by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES, U. S. A.