

to exhibit as great variations, in these and many other respects, not to exclude the striking one of foliage coloration in autumn.

The value of some distinguishing sex characteristic in the case of seedling *Ailanthus* trees, could it be found, would be appreciated by all who are acquainted with these ornamental trees. To others we need only to quote a line from Dr. Gray: "Called Tree of Heaven—but whose blossoms, especially the staminate ones, are redolent of anything but 'airs from heaven.'" It is needless to say that it is desirable to exclude the males from the city streets.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

New Brunswick, N. J., Feb. 12, 1890.

*Burning of the Botanical Museum and Laboratory of the Michigan Agricultural College.* On the night of March 23d, our Botanical Laboratory and Museum was destroyed by fire. We were able to carry out and preserve all the books, charts and apparatus, including the mounted portion of the herbarium. The Wheeler herbarium, recently purchased, containing over seven thousand species, including the most complete collection of Michigan plants ever brought together, was lost, together with a part of the electrotypes to illustrate my second volume on grasses. If life and health are spared, we shall have, in a few years, a much better building and a finer museum. For the present, very good accommodations for the botanical department are furnished in a part of the new Agricultural Laboratory recently completed.

W. J. BEAL.

*A Munificent Gift.* Mary E. Banning, who has for several years been studying the fungi of Maryland and making colored drawings of them, has recently presented to the New York State Museum of Natural History, a magnificent volume of illustrations of the species that have come under her observation. It contains one hundred and seventy-five plates, representing nearly as many species belonging mostly to the Hymenomycetes and Gasteromycetes. The plates are about the same in length as those of the *Icones Selectæ Hymenomycetum* of Fries and a little greater in breadth. The figures are most beautifully executed, painted in water colors and are very life-like in expression and accurate in detail. They are accompanied by manuscript de-