

Botany.

"Atropis Foucaudi."—At a meeting of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club, held in the Royal Irish Academy's House, we hear that Miss M. C. Knowles read a very interesting Paper on "Atropis Foucaudi," a maritime grass discovered growing upon the banks of the Shannon last summer by Miss Knowles. This was the first time it was found in Ireland, and as it is one of the most rare of the grasses of Europe, Miss Knowles was much congratulated on her addition to Irish botany. On the same occasion, Miss Knowles exhibited a number of typical Irish plants used for dyeing purposes.

Notes on some Bulbs from the Alluvial of the Shannon Estuary.—The Shannon ran low in May and June last year, 1904, so that I was able thoroughly to search its marshy banks for *Leucojum aestivum*, which I had before failed to find further down stream than Whitehall creek.

The sweep of the tide and the lash of the water in the open reaches does not suit the plant. I found only a few specimens, yet I was able to establish its presence below the railway bridge on the Clare shore, and very sparingly up from thence to Whitehall creek. Since 1897 I have seen it every Spring in the meadows and sallies of Parteen as far as the lax weir, and up Whitehall creek as far as the tide goes.

The sally bed along the creek had been cut in the winter—I had not before realized the quantities of bulbs growing there. It was perhaps the coincidence of the dry Spring with the admission of sunlight by cutting the osiers that caused their great flowering. The ground between the stumps was fairly white with their bells.

I found the plant, two or three flowers only, on the Limerick shore above the railway bridge.

In the reach below the bridge I could not find it, as I had hoped to do, but cattle were on the land.

I learnt later that it grows in some quantity at Adare, but I did not know this until the Summer was too advanced to look for it—I shall make sure of it this year.

If any of our members go to the Fergus at the right season they should search carefully for the plant in the sheltered creeks at the head of the tideway, for I think there has not been much embankment done there.

Mr. Praeger discusses the status of *Leucojum* in the Irish Naturalist, December 1900, page 286, and concludes that it is "probably introduced."

I must dissent from this view—we have now five distinct localities for the bulb, all of a highly specialized character, for it seems almost a necessity of its existence as a wild plant that it should come within the wash of Spring tides, while, as may be gathered from its appearance, it is ill able to resist heavy streams and lapping waters. Its true habitat is round among the quiet bushy creeks and lagoons at the verges of the tidal marshes—refuges that have been almost abolished by the embankment of the riverain lands and by ploughing the corcass for corn.

Is Mr. Praeger justified in saying that "none of the stations mentioned are free from suspicion."

At Macmine, Mr. Marshall strongly insisted that the plant was native. At Kilbarry bog Mr. Nicholson says expressly that it is not near any house or garden; of its other Waterford station, Clodiagh, we have no particulars.

Let us hope we may do something this season to establish *Leucojum* as a native bulb.

I have been much puzzled by the way *Narcissus biflorus* appears in the Parteen marshes. There are several clumps on the west side of Whitehall creek, but they do not seem to flower regularly.

I have got single flowers in different years, and in distant parts of the meadows, and another I found on the very verge of the water above the weir. This last I may possibly have planted myself, but those in the marsh I certainly did not. They were miserable specimens, more like poor struggling natives than bold invaders.

Allium vineale. Mr. Praeger remarks that "Smith's Record, 844, "describing it as in most of the pasture lands (in Waterford) is clearly "erroneous."

I take it that Dr. Smith, is probably right. The Waterford pastures are corcass like our own, which are full of it. I have seen the seedlings in the very early Spring growing like a green mould on the top of the road wall at Ballinacurra. I daresay they are there now.

Wild Garlic, *Allium ursinum* grows in great quantity in lower Mungret

I believe there is a lot of money to be made out of planting onions in the corcass. I wish I had a dry plot of it to try them on.

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