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VIII.—Notes on *Saxifraga umbrosa*

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whilst three round and thick orange-coloured granules ascended and descended together rapidly along the same line of circulation, and continued visible from one extremity to the other.

After long immersion of the utricles in water, the arrangement of the orange-coloured granules apparently proved the existence of a double sac in which the granules were contained. The circulation in this case was similar to that described by Mr. Slack in hairs of *Tradescantia* (Trans. Soc. Arts, vol. xlix. p. 41). "Each articulation appeared to consist of an exterior glassy tube. Between this and the colouring matter was the circulating fluid with its molecules. The coloured fluid of the hair appeared to be enclosed in a membranous sac, which formed an axis around which the fluid circulated."

On crushing the anther there were observed some purple hairs formed of an immense quantity of granules of extreme minuteness, endowed with a very quick molecular motion.

Iodine rendered the orange granules green. Alcohol did not dissolve them. The latter did not arrest the circulation of the nucleus in the ovoid utricles, although it instantaneously killed the animalcules.

VIII.—*Notes on Saxifraga umbrosa*: By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.; and by the Reviewer of Baines's 'Yorkshire Flora.'

IN the 39th Number of these Annals (vol. vi. p. 401), the Rev. W. T. Brce expresses his doubt if the *Saxifraga umbrosa* is "in fact a *genuine* native of Britain;" and if he had said Great Britain, I should have been inclined to say that it has all the appearance of having been introduced, and that much more evidence is requisite before we ought to admit it to have been a genuine native. Concerning Ireland, however, I must express quite the contrary opinion, being convinced that there is *no* plant that has a more decided claim to be considered as certainly indigenous. I have myself seen it in the greatest plenty upon the wild mountains of Connamara and Joice's county, but certainly did not notice it in the neighbourhood of Killarney, where *S. Geum* is peculiarly abundant.

It is worthy of notice, that the plant found in Connamara differs as a variety from the Pyrenæan plant, by having its leaves dentate, crenate, and not simply and bluntly crenate, as in the plant from the Pyrenees. The figure given in Eng. Bot. (t. 663), which was taken from a specimen gathered at Throp Arch woods, in Yorkshire, approaches much more

nearly to the foreign than to the Irish plant; and I have reason to believe that all the 'London Pride' found "wild" in Great Britain will prove to be the blunt crenate-leaved plant, and to have escaped from cultivation, or been intentionally planted.

St. John's Coll., Cambridge, Feb. 8, 1841.

On Saxifraga umbrosa.

THE writer of the notice of Baines's 'Yorkshire Flora' begs to state, in reference to Mr. Bree's paper, that he mentioned *Saxifraga umbrosa* as abundant in the west and south of Ireland, in consequence of having seen it himself in great quantity in the west of the county of Cork during a botanical tour made in the year 1811, and having heard from friends whom he considered as good judges, that it is equally common in Connaught. He considered himself as knowing *S. hirsuta* and *S. Geum* at the time he made the tour referred to; and he is confirmed in the belief that he did not commit an error, by having now before him a MS. journal of a rather more extended tour through the same district in 1809 by Mr. James Drummond, then curator of the Cork Botanic Garden, from which it appears that Mr. Drummond found *S. umbrosa* abundantly in the county of Cork, and also met with both *Geum* and *hirsuta* in the mountains between Cork and Kerry.

The station of *S. umbrosa* at Thorpe Arch would be very suspicious, had it not been noticed before the grounds were ornamented as they are at present, and by such an accurate botanist as, for example, the late Rev. W. Wood of Leeds. Respecting the other Yorkshire stations the writer can give no opinion.

IX.—*Notes on Birds.* By T. C. EYTON, Esq., F.L.S.

No. I.

I PROPOSE in the following series of papers to give from time to time such extracts from my note-book relating to Birds as I think likely to prove interesting to my readers; the first portions will be principally occupied with anatomical notes on some Australian Birds received from Mr. Gould, and on some received from Malacca. With regard to the former birds, it is not my intention to go minutely into detail, or further than what I believe to be necessary to show the position of each in a natural arrangement. I take this course, as I understand that eminent anatomist, Mr. Owen, has undertaken to furnish Mr. Gould, for his work on the 'Birds of Australia,' with a more detailed account.