

Birds, their Nests and Eggs, their Habits and Notes. With Illustrations. By H. D. Minot. Salem, Mass.: Naturalists' Agency. Boston: Estes and Lauriat. 1877. 8vo, pp. 456.

GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.¹

HOMOGONE AND HETEROGONE (or Homogonous and Heterogonous) FLOWERS. — That difference in relative length or height of stamens and style, reciprocally, which in Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America was very long ago designated by the term *diæco-dimorphism*, Mr. Darwin, who detected and has made much of the meaning of the arrangement, called simply *dimorphism*. Besides these *dimorphic*, he also brought to view *trimorphic* flowers. The first name is too long for use and carries with it some ambiguity, since it may imply a separation as well as a diversification of the sexes. Mr. Darwin's term has the disadvantage of not indicating what parts of the blossom are *dimorphic* (hermaphrodite flowers may be dimorphous in the perigonium), and a more generic name is now required on account of trimorphic, etc. This has been supplied by Hildebrand in Germany, who has introduced the term *heterostyled* and the counterpart *homostyled*. These are not particularly happy appellations; for the difference is in the stamens as well as in the pistil, and in the latter is not always restricted to the style. Well-established terms ought not to be superseded on the ground of improvement; but those which have not yet taken root sometimes may be. Following the analogy of *perigonium* or *perigone*, I propose the more exactly expressive term of *heterogone* (or *heterogonous*), for these flowers such as those of *Primula*, *Houstonia*, *Lythrum*, etc. The counterpart *homogone* (or *homogonous*) would designate the absence of this kind of differentiation. These terms, either in Latin or English form, would work well in generic or specific characters, and have the advantage of etymological correctness. — ASA GRAY.

A MADROÑA SWALLOWS AN OAK! — "Being yesterday in the country in this neighborhood, I saw what seemed to me a curious botanical phenomenon, which may be of interest. The phenomenon is this. I found in San Rafael, growing side by side, almost from the same root, a Californian oak and a madroña, but on examining the madroña, I found that inside of it was the dead body of the oak that ought naturally to have proceeded from those roots, and the madroña was gradually overgrowing trunk and branches, laying its outside wrapper along like deposits of fat. The trunk was overgrown all but about a foot in some places, less in others (the trunk being perhaps seven or eight feet in circumference), and the branches were gradually, apparently, covered by the madroña covering, the solid part being madroña, and the dead limb of the oak projecting. Again, close by was another pair, oak and madroña,

¹ Conducted by PROF. G. L. GOODALE.