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EDITOR

PERCY WILSON

Administrative Assistant



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AT 41 NORTH QUEEN STREET, LANCASTER, PA. BY THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY her little grandson, "He did not believe me but when his teacher—a mere slip of a girl—said it was so, he never dreamed of doubting." In the heart of the little boy who was breaking the dogwood, his teacher was above the law and beyond the Board of Managers.

And since this is so, my fellow-teacher, a great responsibility rests upon us. It is for us to instruct the child in those municipal laws which concern him; it is for us to teach him to respect authority and to regard public property. But if we do this only, we but do the work of the hireling. It is for us to implant in the growing soul of the child such a love of nature and the beautiful that he will have no desire other than to help to make the parks places of beauty and loveliness. It is for us to develop in the child-soul so true and loyal a love for the wild flowers that he will enjoy them most when he sees them in their own setting and surroundings. We must study to work out ways and means to make this a living and vital subject to the child; by demonstration and experiment we must bring vividly before him the function of root and leaf, of flower and seed; we must make his interest an intelligent interest. When we shall have accomplished this, then the problem of the preservation of the wild flowers of the New York Botanical Garden will be solved.

Mary Perle Anderson,
Teacher of Nature Study in
the Horace Mann School of
Teachers College, Columbia University.

A RARE CYCAD.

One of the most remarkable plants among the Cycadaceae, or cycas family, is the one here illustrated, Stangeria, a native of southern Africa. A single plant of this will be found in the cycad house in conservatory range no. 2. This was obtained in an exchange arranged with one of the European botanical gardens in 1902. For some years it was content to make foliage only, but in the summer of 1908 it gave evidence of making a cone. The development of this was watched with much interest, for the

plant is exceedingly rare in this country. This cone proved to be a pistillate one, and it is now almost mature, just about a year from the time of its first appearance. As will be seen from the illustration, the cone is ovoid. The plant is dioecious, that is, it bears the staminate and pistillate cones on different individuals. The staminate cone is said to be longer and narrower, cylindric in shape, measuring as much as six inches long and one and a quarter inches in diameter.

The genus Stangeria is especially noteworthy among the cycads in having the leaflets pinnately veined, a character unknown in any other genus of this family, in which the venation is ordinarily parallel. So unusual is this character in the family that Kunze in 1835, when working on the botany of southern Africa, referred a leaf specimen of this plant to the fern genus Lomaria, never suspecting its true relationship, believing it to be the Lomaria coriacea Schrad. Four years later, recognizing this reference as erroneous, he gave it the name of Lomaria eriopus, still believing it to be a fern. In 1853 Thomas Moore seemed to have an inkling of the truth, for he refers to it as a "fern-like Zamia or a Zamia-like fern." He has no doubt as to its being a new genus, however, for he gives it the name of Stangeria paradoxa, in honor of Dr. Stanger, who first introduced living specimens into Europe, sending them from Natal to the Botanic Garden at Chelsea in 1851. Three years later specimens of the cones were exhibited before the Linnæan Society, thus determining its true relationship.

An examination of the foliage of the plant in the Garden collection will show how strong is this resemblance of the leaves to those of a fern, and it is not to be wondered at that, in the absence of cones, it should have been considered a fern. Although this relationship proved to be erroneous, the specific name which was first applied to it must be adopted, and the old *Lomaria eriopus* Kunze must be known now as *Stangeria eriopus* (Kunze), the later specific name of "paradoxa" becoming a synonym. A staminate plant of this curious cycad is a great desideratum, and it is to be hoped that some time the Garden may be fortunate enough to secure one.



Stangeria eriopus.