

Eugene Warming. By the President, Professor
F. O. Bower, F.R.S.

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EUGENE WARMING, Emeritus Professor of Botany in the University of Copenhagen, died on 2nd April 1924, aged eighty-two years. He did what it is given to few men to do, in that he inaugurated a new aspect of an old science. He lived long enough to see his method permeate the schools of all nations, and infuse a new enthusiasm into the cult of field-botany, which was in danger of becoming effete. His new initiative consisted in transferring the methods of physiological inquiry from the laboratory to the field. Plants in the field had long been studied, compared, and recorded rather as finished articles, in the state of maturity, than as living units on probation, each resolving for itself the question "to be or not to be," in face of difficult circumstances. Warming studied those circumstances closely in relation to the various organisms affected by them, so as to ascertain what factors determine the existence of a plant at any given spot, and collectively of the whole vegetation subjected to those circumstances. This study, first inaugurated in his university teaching, was introduced to the world at large in 1896, as *Ecological Plant-Geography*, an introduction to the knowledge of Plant-Communities. The original work, revised by the author himself, appeared in English in 1909 as *The Ecology of Plants*, and it has exercised a strong influence amongst English-speaking botanists.

While we recognise the beneficent revolution which such a method has brought into the study of plants in the field, Warming's varied contributions to general botany must not be overlooked. His monographs on the Podostemaceæ are classical, while his developmental studies on stamens and ovules find their reflection in all current text-books. These are only samples of his varied work. His own *Handbook of Systematic Botany*, translated into English in 1895, has long been held as one of the best text-books existing. As recently as 1912, he produced a new and beautifully illustrated treatise on the Spermophyta. While this Society has thus lost a very distinguished Foreign Fellow, Warming's death has carried away one of those who influenced most profoundly the botany of his own time.