is already considerable, and includes a "Flora Montana Formosæ" by the author of the work now under review, as well as a more comprehensive publication mainly compiled by Dr. Hayata at Kew.

Although bearing a primary Latin title, the present work is written entirely in English in a clear and idiomatic style. As we learn from the "Introduction," the *Icones* will contain 600 plates, illustrating nearly all the plants to be found in Formosa, and accompanied by descriptions. These will be issued yearly for fifteen years in separate numbers, each containing forty plates. Dr. Hayata's estimate of the total number of vascular plants now known to inhabit the island is 2660 species belonging to 836 genera and 156 families. There is a considerable endemic element in species, but the number of peculiar genera is relatively small.

The "*Icones*" are excellently drawn and engraved on copper, with ample floral analyses, and comprise the families Ranunculaceæ to Umbelliferae. In concluding this brief notice we strongly protest against the barbarous manner in which letterpress and plates are nailed together, with stout nails, a quarter of an inch within the margin. It was necessary, though difficult, to extract these already rusty nails before we could consult the book.

W. BOTTING HEMSLEY.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Hybrid Sea-urchins.

It may interest readers of NATURE to learn that this season we have been successful in crossing the two species of British sea-urchin, *Echinus nuharis* and *E. acutus*, at the Imperial College, and that we have reared the hybrid larvæ through their entire developmental cycle in our tanks, and have now hybrid sea-urchins creeping about.

Further, in a culture of the larvæ of *E. nuharis*, which was instituted as a control, a puzzling barrel-shaped organism turned up. Microscopic examination revealed the fact that this organism had been derived from a larva in which a water-vascular system, with all its outgrowths, had been developed on the right side, as well as on the left, and which had completed its metamorphosis. The right water-vascular system, though provided with the typical number of fifteen tentacles, was smaller than the left, and was not parallel with it so far as the plane of the water-vascular ring was concerned.

Last autumn I published an account of a fully developed larva of *E. esculentus*, which had two water-vascular systems, but that larva had not metamorphosed. The specimen which turned up this year has been suitably preserved, and an account of its anatomy will be published later.

E. W. MACBRIDE.

Royal College of Science, South Kensington,
London, S.W., June 21.

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July Meteor-showers.

THE following meteor-showers become due during the month of July:—

Epoch July 5, 15h. 30m. (G.M.T.), approximately fifth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 4, 11h. 35m.; secondary maxima, July 2, 15h., and July 3, 12h. 40m.

Epoch July 5, 20h. 30m., approximately twenty-third order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 4, 14h. 40m.; secondary maximum, July 4, 5h. 50m.

Epoch July 8, 2h. 30m., twenty-first order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 6, 8h. 10m.; secondary maximum, July 4, 21h. 50m.

Epoch July 8, 5h., twenty-seventh order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 6, 18h. 30m.; secondary maxima, July 7, 17h. 15m. and 22h. 50m.

Epoch July 10, 20h., eighth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 9, 13h. 52m.; secondary maximum, July 9, 11h. 25m.

Epoch July 9, 3h., approximately twenty-fifth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 10, 19h. 10m.; secondary maxima, July 10, 11h. 35m. and 23h. 5m.

Epoch July 11, 10h. 30m., approximately seventh order of magnitude. Principal maxima, July 11, 10h. 30m., and July 13, 7h.; secondary maximum, July 12, 15h.

Epoch July 13, 15h., twelfth order of magnitude. Principal maxima, July 11, 19h. 30m., and July 13, 14h. 50m.; secondary maximum, July 12, 8h. 10m.

Epoch July 11, 5h., twenty-eighth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 11, 21h. 50m.; secondary maximum, July 11, 10h. 25m.

Epoch July 14, 13h., eleventh order of magnitude. Principal maxima, July 14, 20h. 5m., and July 16, 13h. 45m.; secondary maximum, July 15, 1h.

Epoch July 15, 18h. 30m., eighth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 16, 1h. 10m.; secondary maximum, July 17, 11h. 25m.

Epoch July 16, 2h. 30m., eleventh order of magnitude. Principal maxima, July 16, 3h. 10m., and July 17, 22h. 30m.; secondary maximum, July 16, 12h. 35m.

Epoch July 19, 10h., ninth order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 20, 22h. 15m.; secondary maxima, July 19, 15h. 45m., and July 21, 8h. 15m.

Epoch July 21, 12h., approximately twenty-first order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 22, 11h. 10m.; secondary maxima, July 22, 13h. 30m., and July 23, 0h. 55m.

Epoch July 29, 3h., approximately second order of magnitude. Principal maximum, July 28, 2h. 50m.; secondary maximum, July 27, 16h. 30m.

Epoch July 27, 21h., twenty-second order of magnitude. Principal maxima, July 28, 8h. 10m., and July 30, 3h. 35m.; secondary maximum, July 29, 20h. 50m.

An important maximum of the month is the first principal maximum, which takes place shortly before midnight on July 4. Another maximum calling for special notice becomes due on July 11, 19h. 30m. There is considerable meteoric activity on July 16, highly concentrated maxima occurring on July 16, 1h. 30m. and 13h. 45m. Three maxima, belonging to the weaker epochs, deserve also special mention; two of these occur on July 6 at 8h. 10m. and 18h. 30m. respectively, and the third, which is really stronger than either, on July 22, 11h. 10m.

Dublin, June 24.

JOHN R. HENRY.