

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

A NEW GENUS OF CACTACEÆ.

This is the title of a joint paper by Drs. N. L. Britton and J. N. Rose in the *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden*, vol. ix., pp. 185—188, plates 48—51. The paper, which is most interesting, is illustrative and descriptive of the home of the plant hitherto known as *Cereus giganteus*, therein described as a new genus under the name of *Carnegiea gigantea*. Whether this change will meet with general acceptance is doubtful, especially as the authors do not indicate the characters upon which their genus is based. Without differential descriptions it is impossible for anybody except an expert to form an opinion. Few botanists possess so wide a knowledge of the North American flora as the gentlemen responsible for this change, and fewer still, perhaps, take so restricted a view of generic limits, judging from their treatment of the species formerly referred to the genera *Sedum* and *Cotyledon*. The Cactus in question is one of the most interesting of the family, and some particulars of it, with a landscape in which it appears as the most conspicuous feature, are to be found in this journal, vol. xx., 1883, p. 264, the illustration being now reproduced at fig. 69. Later, in 1890, Kew imported a stem, which on its arrival had no roots and weighed 12 hundredweight. This flowered in July, 1891, when the stem was 14 feet high, and it was figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 7222.

According to Britton and Rose, *Cereus giganteus*, as we shall continue to call it for the present, known in its home by the name Sahuaro, is the most remarkable and striking plant in the desert vegetation of the South-West. It grows on hillsides in Southern Arizona and South-eastern California, and Northern and Central Sonora, sometimes reaching a height of 60 feet, branching at from 12 to 20 feet above the ground. *Carnegiea* is dedicated to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the founder of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which possesses a laboratory at Tucson, Arizona, "surrounded by typical specimens of this unique plant."

Dr. Britton describes (*Studies of West Indian Plants*, No. 2, p. 561) another new genus of Cactaceæ, under the name *Harrisia*, in honour of William Harris, superintendent of Public Gardens and Plantations of Jamaica. To this he refers the old *Cereus eriophorus*, *C. gracilis* and *C. undatus*, together with five new species. In this instance, again, the essential characters of the genus are not indicated, although doubtless embodied in the description. They are night-flowering Cacti, with slender, erect, cylindric stems bearing fluted branches. Plates 22 and 23 of Pfeiffer and Otto's *Abbildungen und Beschreibungen Bluehender Cacteen* represent two of the species of this proposed new genus. W. B. H.

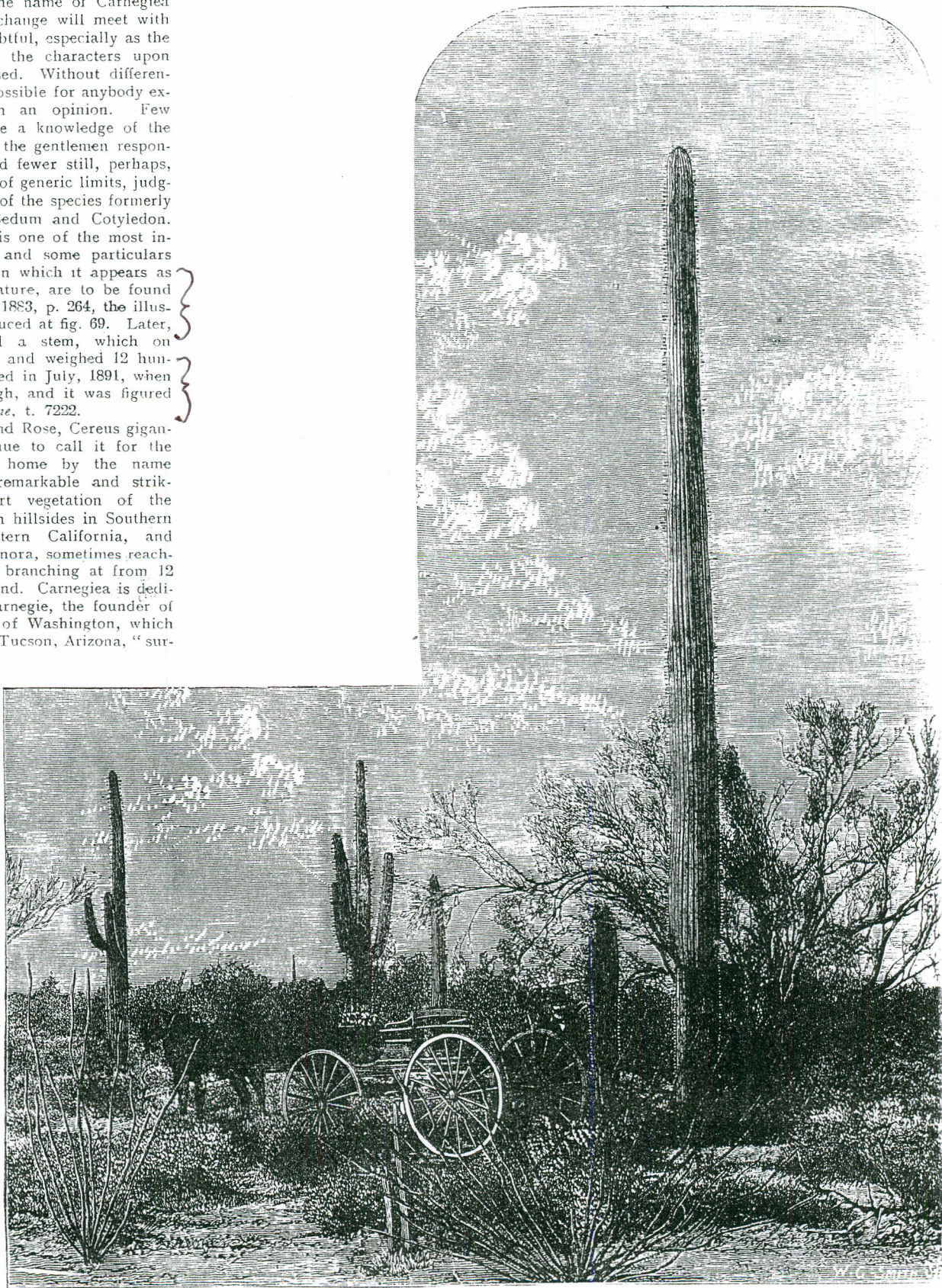


FIG. 69.—CEREUS GIGANTEUS GROWING IN ARIZONA.