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1901 Book-notes etc., *Journal of Botany*, **39** p352

WILLIAM MATHEWS, who died at Tunbridge Wells on the 5th of September, was born at Hagley, near Birmingham, on Sept. 10, 1828. He was educated at King's College, London, and then at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. he then returned to Birmingham and joined the firm of land surveyors of which his father was the head. Mathews took up botany at Cambridge under Babington, whose *Journal* contains numerous references to excursions taken in his company. A note on North Wales botany from his pen appeared in the *Phytologist* in 1853, and he contributed various notes to this *Journal* between 1871 and 1895, the most important being his notes on Worcestershire plants (*Journ. Bot.* 1884, 38-41) and on *Alchemilla conjuncta* (Id. 1881, 91). He contributed an account of the Clent Hills to a little book entitled *Clentine Rambles*, published in 1868; and a paper read before the Birmingham Philosophical Society on the Flora of Algeria, considered in relation to the physical history of the Mediterranean region and the supposed submergence of the Sahara - the outcome of Mathew's visit to that country in the autumn of 1876 - was printed in its Transactions, and subsequently appeared in book form. His help is acknowledged by Mr. Bagnall in his *Flora of Warwickshire*, and by Edwin Lees, with whom he was intimately acquainted, in the *Botany of Worcestershire*; he presented a collection of Worcestershire plants to the Queen's College, Birmingham. Mathews was one of the founders and an early president of the Alpine Club, and did a great deal of work in connection with early mountaineering discovery. He made the first passage of some of the most notable "cols" in the Zermatt district, and was the first to accomplish the ascent of Monte Viso. With two other members of the Alpine Club, he received from Victor Emmanuel the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazare, in appreciation of his geographical discoveries in the Italian Alps. Mathews was a Fellow of the Geographical Society, and enjoyed the friendship of many eminent men of science, particularly those interested in alpine research, such as the late Professor Tyndall and Principal James David Forbes. He was a contributor to the first series of *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, edited by John Ball; and he wrote for the *Alpine Journal* interesting papers on hypsometry - the measurement of altitudes by barometrical pressure.

1901 THE LATE WILLIAM MATHEWS, *Journal of Botany*, **39** p428

To his contributions to botanical literature, named on p. 352, should certainly be added the excellent little *Flora of the Clent and Lickey Hills*, 1881, and his very valuable "History of the County Botany of Worcester," which ran through the pages of the *Midland Naturalist* from April, 1887, to July, 1893. This last-named work is not only the most interesting in itself, but must prove of the utmost value to the future writer of the Flora of the county - a task which at one time it was hoped Mr. Mathews would himself have undertaken, and for which his intimate knowledge of the county and its plants so eminently fitted him, until his long illness showed such a work to be impossible. No notice of Mr. Mathews would be complete without some mention of the willing and valuable help that he accorded to those less well

informed than himself. For such help, as well as for many kindnesses, I was often indebted to him, and notably for the assistance he gave in furnishing careful translations from the continental writers when such were likely to be useful. - R. F. Towndrow.

[Mrs. Mathews informs us that her late husband's botanical and geological interests began in his boyhood. His botanical collectiona were sent to Kew shortly before his death, the Worcestershire plants being transferred thence to Worcester. Mathews's geological collections were presented in 1899 to Mason College, Birmingham; the statement that he sent plants to Queen's College is Erroneous. - ¹ED. JOURN. BOT.]

¹ James Britten