

says of *T. patens*, "It keeps fresh in spite of heat and drouth, and will grow vigorously on unshaded rocks."<sup>1</sup>

Not uncommon on the rocks were specimens of *Houstonia purpurea* L. var. *longifolia* Gray. The characteristics were intermediate, allying it more closely to the type than ordinary examples of the variety; the leaves being sometimes three-ribbed and somewhat tufted or rosulate near the root. Several stems usually grow from the same root. The only plants besides calling for notice are, *Oxybaphus nyctagineus*, seen occasionally on the rocky banks, and *Gentiana alba* in springy ground.

(Concluded next month.)

Englewood, Chicago.

## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

A new Aster from California (with plate XI).—*Aster Orcuttii* Vasey & Rose, n. sp.—Stems suffruticose, somewhat branching, pearly white, glabrous: lower leaves obovate, 1 to 2 in. long, with cuneate base; upper ones often oblong, with broad sessile or somewhat clasping base, obtuse at tip, spinulose-toothed, glabrous: heads solitary and terminal on leafy branches, sessile or nearly so, very large, an inch or more in diameter: bracts of the involucre closely imbricated in 3 or 4 series, oblong with tapering green tips ciliate on the margins: rays an inch long, "lavender to delicate mauve color": disk-flowers 4 lines long, tapering toward the base: style branches broad: achenes densely long white villous: pappus coarse and scabrous.—Collected at "Cariso Creek Wash," Colorado Desert, California (where it is very abundant), April and November, by *C. R. Orcutt*.—This handsome flowered species, although it resembles in habit and leaf some species of *Aplopappus*, evidently belongs to Gray's section *MEGALASTRUM* under *Aster*, and near *A. tortifolius*. It differs from that species in its almost sessile head, different involucre bracts, obtuse leaves, and larger disk-flowers. Mr. Orcutt obtained seeds of it and considers it worthy of cultivation.—*J. N. ROSE, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

A new Fomes from northern Montana. (With plate XII).—*Fomes Ellisianus* Anders., n. sp.:—On the living trunks and larger branches of *Shepherdia argentea*, valley of the Teton, opposite the "Three Knees," buttes of the Marias river, northern Montana, July 1889. *Anderson, no. 537.*

<sup>1</sup> Les Fleurs de pleine Terre, p. 1124.