

The University of Chicago

Department of Botany

The Botanical Gazette

May 19, 1908.

P. A. Saccordo, Librarian,
Padova, Italy.

Dear Sir:

You will learn from an announcement in the May number of the Botanical Gazette that the price is to be advanced from \$5.00 to \$7.00 a year on July 1, 1908. While this will not effect the details of our arrangement with you, we feel sure that you will be interested in the matter and accordingly desire to explain to you the reasons for this change. You will easily realize that the financing of the Botanical Gazette has always been a problem, and you will not be surprised to hear that The University of Chicago has been obliged to contribute about \$2,000 annually toward its support. It is not probable that the amount of this subsidy can be increased in the future, and at the same time the cost of production has been growing greater year by year.

An interesting comparison has been instituted between the Botanical Gazette on the one hand and five leading botanical journals of Europe on the other in the matter of size and prices. It appears that on the average these journals give their readers 648 pages a year each, 12 plates, and 122 text figures, and the average price is \$6.50. The Botanical Gazette on the other hand gives 945 pages, 45 plates, and 182 text figures, and its subscription price has been \$5.00 in spite of the greater cost of manufacture in this country.

The advice of numerous botanists has been sought and freely given, and with great unanimity their opinion favors the maintenance of the present standard of size with an increased subscription price; for it seems evident that the pressure for publication is increasing rather than diminishing. In view of the whole situation, it has been decided to increase the annual subscription to \$7.00, in the belief that this represents a fair charge for the service rendered. The new rate will be applied to subscriptions begun or renewed with the July number, 1908, and thereafter.

Very respectfully,

W. B. Barnes
John M. Coulter
Editors in Chief.