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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

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BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

June 19 1874

To the Editor of Nature

Dear Sir

In the notice of Mr. Darwin, in the number for June 4, towards the bottom of the second column of p. 80, a mishap has somehow occurred which blunts the point intended to be made prominent and renders the statement ~~incorrect~~ untrue.

I supposed that I had written ... " and we know from another source that he [Mr. Brown] looked upon Sprengel's ideas as by no means fantastic. Not instead." &c —

The object was to show
how very near Mr. Brown
came to reaching the prin-
ciple that Nature abhors
close fertilization in
plants, and yet did not
reach it at all. The
authority for the state-
ment I wished to make
will be found in a
foot-note in Mr. Dar-
win's book on the
Fertilization of
Orchids, p. 340.

In the penultimate
paragraph, for "In
many," read "Too many,"
and the sense will be
much improved.

Asa Gray