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## GENERAL ITEMS

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## GENERAL ITEMS.

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Dr. F. H. Knowlton, editor-in-chief of this journal, has gone west on an extended collecting trip. He will study the fossil plants of various geological formations in Colorado, California and Oregon.

In the Louisiana exhibit in the Agricultural Building at the Pan-American Exposition, cotton naturally occupies a prominent position. Forty varieties of seed and sixty of lint cotton are shown, the latter displayed in miniature bales. Several full-sized bales as they are prepared for shipment are also shown. Thirty-five varieties of sweet potatoes form another interesting feature of this exhibit, one monster weighing 122 pounds. The genus *Ipomoea*, to which the sweet potato belongs, and which also includes our common morning-glory, is noteworthy for the enormous development of tubers in some of its species.

Orris-root, the rhizomes of *Iris florentina*, has been singularly overlooked by wide-awake Americans who are ever on the lookout for something on which "a good snap" might be made. As it has long been grown as an ornamental garden plant, there is no question about its successful adaptation to culture here. It is one of the staple bases on which many popular perfumes are constructed, and would always find a ready market. European papers tell us that the demand there for it is so lively that the prices have risen considerably, and, indeed, it is believed that the stock in hand is behind the probable demand—*Meehans' Monthly for May*.

The Philippine exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition contains samples of the famous Manila hemp in huge skeins, like flaxen hair, or made up into ropes and cables. There are sugar baskets and bales, and native sugar of various grades, tobacco, coffee, indigo, dye-stuffs, cocoa-nut fibre and oil, and the beautiful and wonderfully delicate pina cloth, made from pineapple fibre. Most abundant of all is the bamboo, which the Filipino adapts to every conceivable use. There are bedsteads of bamboo, chairs, tables, brushes, milk jars, rakes, rafts, and strangest of all, musical instruments. Hardly less important is rattan, of which the native constructs baskets, balls, mats and numerous other household articles. The palm leaf is everywhere in evidence, being used for roofs, hats, cloaks, fans, baskets, etc.