

# Botany

May 1804

We saw in our last lecture that the systematic method of teaching botany consisted of 5 members or branches, viz. Classes - orders - genera, species, and varieties.

Classes are composed of orders; the orders are composed of genera; the genera of species; and the species of varieties. The classes are marked by certain characters w<sup>ch</sup> are common to each; the orders all agree in having the same marks with the class to which they belong, together with some additional ones peculiar to the order; the genera have all the marks of class & order, and besides have some w<sup>ch</sup> distinguish the genus; and the species have all the marks & tokens of class, order & genus, with the still farther addition of certain marks w<sup>ch</sup> distinguish the specific character.

Nor are these arrangements the mere efforts of art, or the ingenious inventions of human sagacity, but, under the original guidance of pure Nature, even children in their early days spontaneously fashion them, and spontaneously refer them to individuals, saying of this individual, 'tis a horse; of another 'tis a Dog; of a third 'tis a sparrow. Take a few familiar instances to shew the simplicity of this natural arrangement of things into class, order, genera & species

Let us compare the Vegetable Kingdom to a political Kingdom

The classes . . . . . to Counties; . . . . . Provincia  
orders . . . . . to Districts; . . . . . Territoria  
genera . . . . . to Parishes; . . . . . Parociae  
Species . . . . . to Villages; and . . . . . Pagi  
Varieties . . . . . to the houses. Domicilium

Linnaeus has compared

a Class to . . . . . an Army; Legiones  
an Order . . . . . to a Regiment; . . . . . Cohortes  
a <sup>genera</sup> ~~Class~~ . . . . . to a Company; and Manipuli  
a Species . . . . . to a Soldier. . . . . Miles

But no comparison can be more applicable of that which considers the Vegetables upon the face of the globe, as analagous to the inhabitants, or great family of mankind.

Vegetables resemble the Inhabitants in general.

Classes . . . . . resemble the Nations;  
Orders . . . . . resemble the tribes;  
Genera . . . . . resemble the families;  
Species . . . . . resemble the Individuals; and  
Varieties are the same, individuals in different circumstances.

The characters of the Classes are taken either from the number, length, connexion, or situation of the stamina, or male parts.

The characters of the Orders are most frequently taken from the

the number of the pistilla, or females, but sometimes from some other circumstances, of the stamina, or pistilla —

The characters, or marks of the Genera are taken from some particulars in the flower, before unnoticed; but generic descriptions are designed to contain an account of all the most obvious appearances in the flowers. —

The Species are mostly characterized from peculiarities in the stem or Leaves; Sometimes from parts of the flower; but rarely from the roots.

As to Varieties; — both leaves & flowers are subject to variations; some of them evidently depend on soil & situation. No variations are more common than those of colour; but desirable as these changes are to the Florist, they have little weight with the Botanist, who considers them as accidental circumstances, and therefore not to be admitted in the discrimination of circumstances. Species.

Many flowers, under the influence of garden culture, become double; but double flowers are monsters, and therefore can only rank in a system of Botany, as varieties.

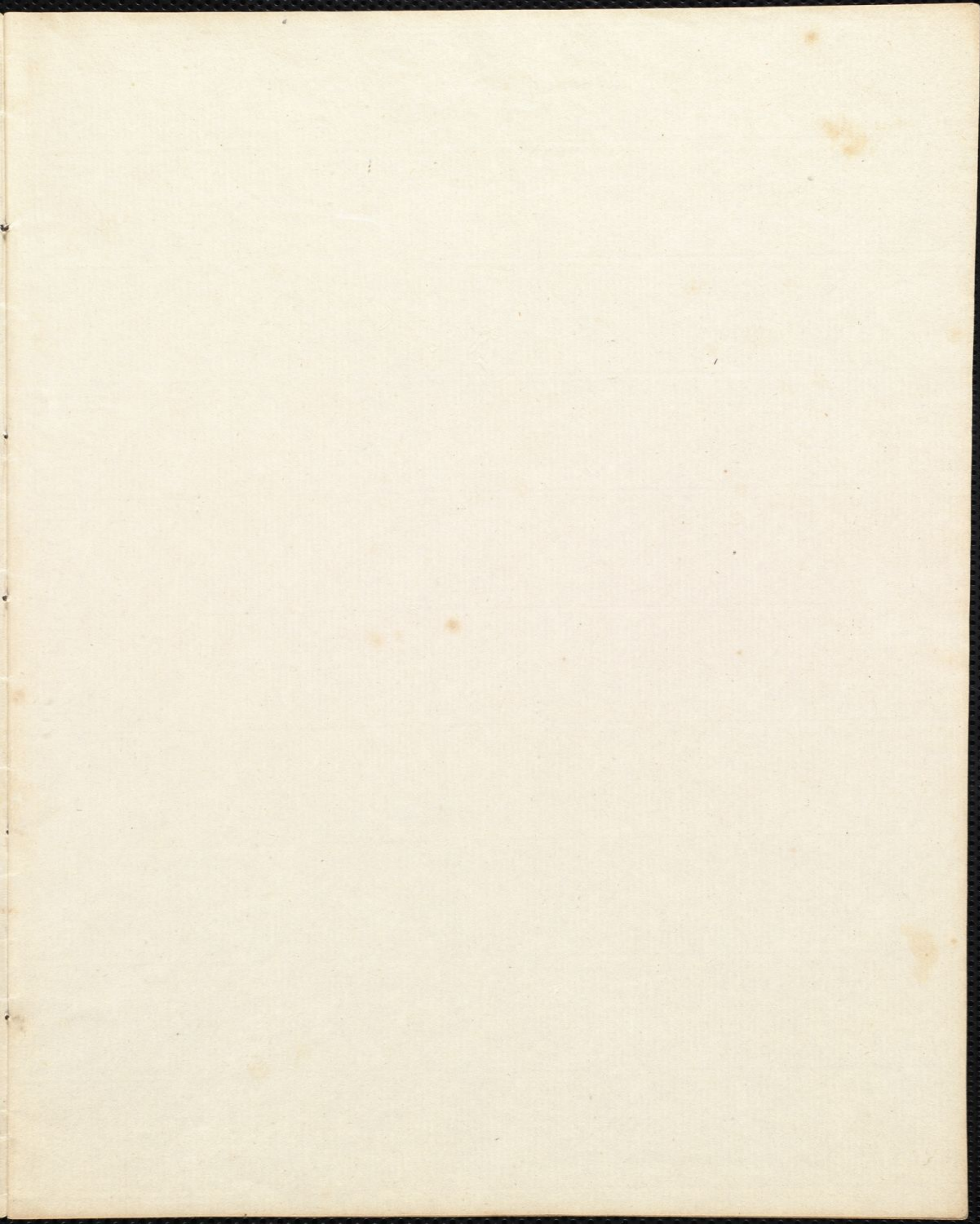
Delivered May 19<sup>th</sup> 1806

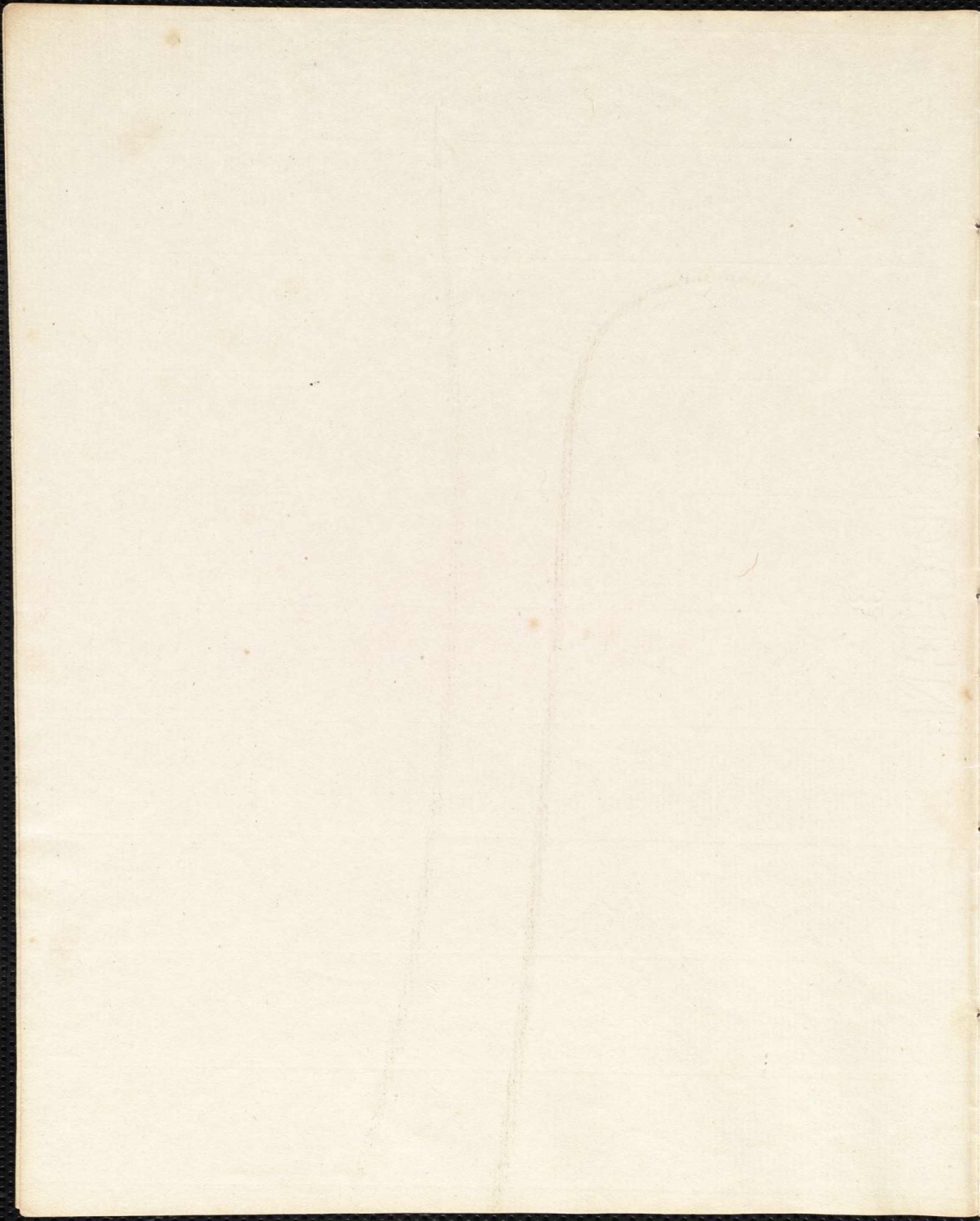
June 29<sup>th</sup> 1809.

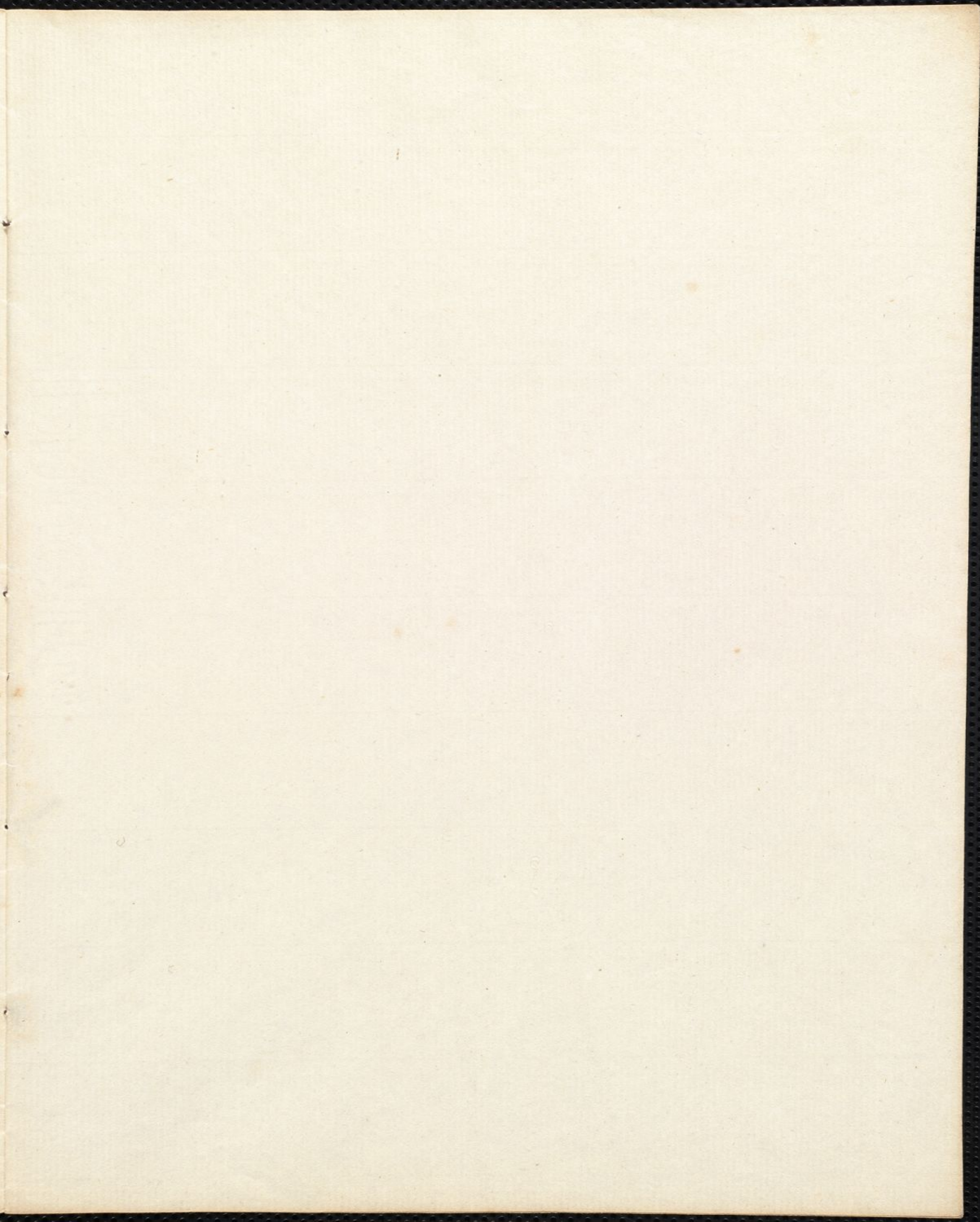
In every modern book of Botany you may find the Table of the Linnean system, so that we may take any one that comes to hand —

BRIDGEMAN

1000  
1000





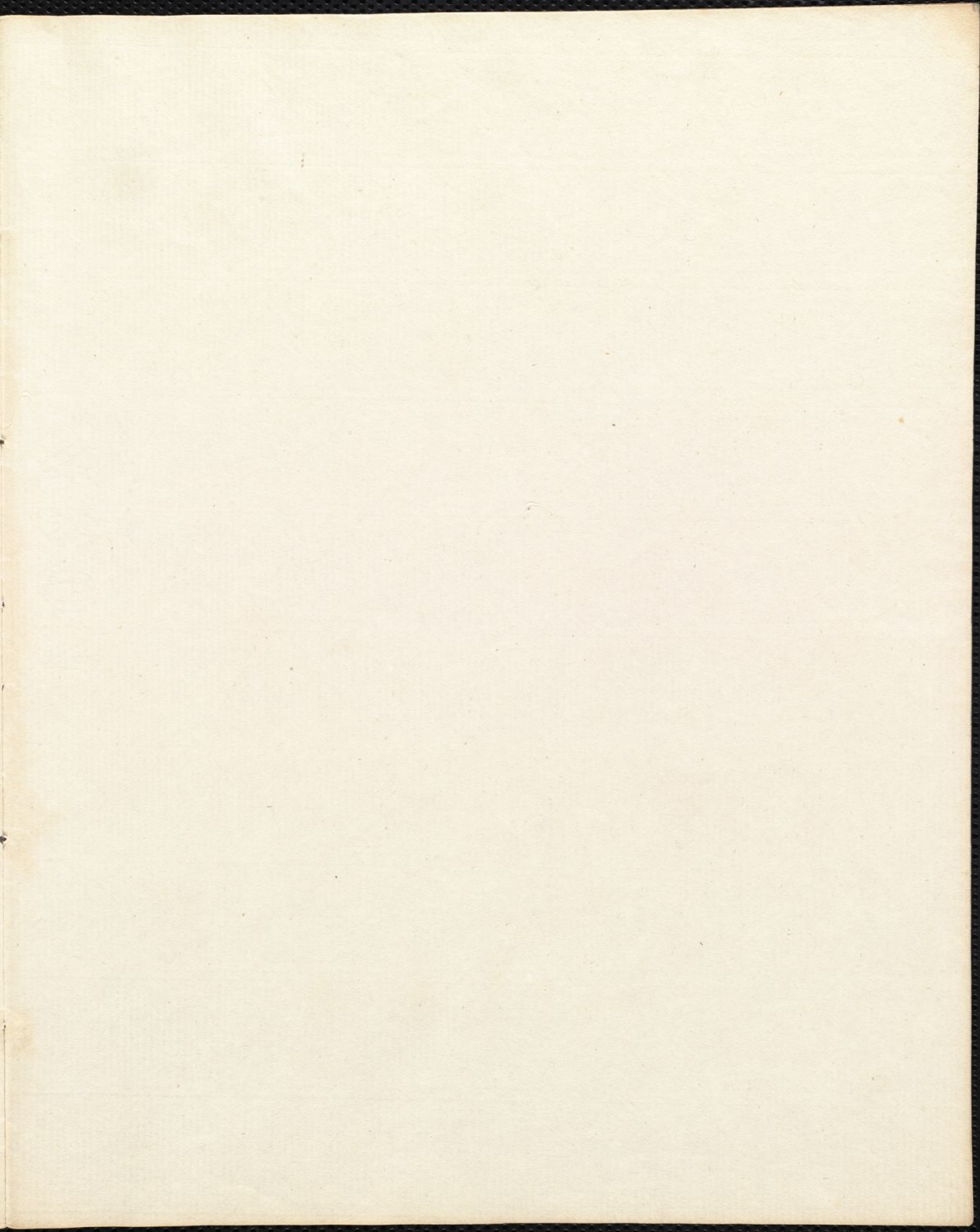


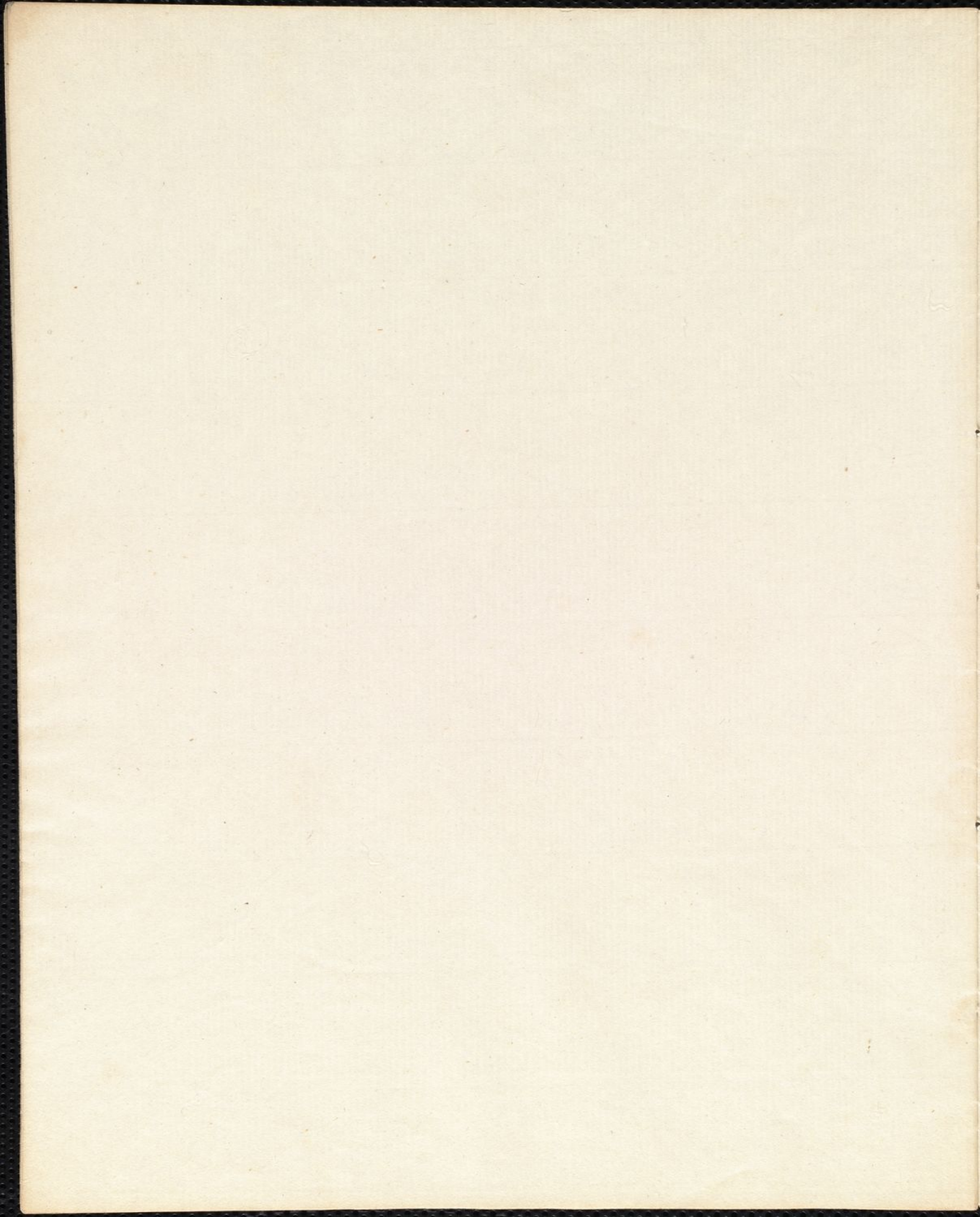












1204

1807

Ms C 16.14