

were thickly scattered over with large gray boulders, hemispherical or oval, three or four feet high, and three or four to six or eight feet across. To heighten the illusion, many of these blocks are covered with lichens, and bunches of grass grow in soil collected in crevices, just as they would in little rifts in rocks. These boulder-like masses are single plants of *Bolax glebaria*, an umbellifer which has the strange habit which we had already seen in the *Azorella* of Kerguelen Island, only greatly exaggerated. These lumps of balsam-bog are quite hard and nearly smooth, and only when looked at closely they are seen to be covered with small hexagonal markings like the calyces on a weathered piece of coral. These are the circlets of leaves and the leaf-buds terminating a multitude of stems, which have gone on growing with extreme slowness and multiplying dichotomously for an unknown length of time, possibly for centuries, ever since the plant started as a single shoot from a seed. The growth is so slow, and the condensation from constant branching is so great, that the block becomes nearly as hard as the boulder which it so much resembles, and it is difficult to cut a shaving from the surface with a sharp knife. Under the unfrequent condition of a warm day with the sun shining, a pleasant aromatic odor may be perceived where these plants abound, and a pale-yellow gum exudes from the surface, which turns brown in drying. The gum is astringent, and slightly aromatic, and the shepherds use it dissolved in spirit as a balsam for wounds and sores. The flowers, which are very inconspicuous, are produced at the ends of the branches, and the characteristic cremocarps of the umbelliferæ may be seen scattered over the smooth surface of the ball in late summer.

*Bolax* is uneatable, and can apparently be applied to no particular use; and as it is widely distributed and abundant, it is likely that it will long hold its place as one of the curiosities of the Falklands: such is, unfortunately, not a reasonable anticipation for that prince of grasses, *Dactylis cæspitosa*. The tussock-