

tracks of porcupines leading to their holes, which are often in the caves about the sea cliffs, and have stray quills lying about their mouths, sufficient evidence of the nature of the inhabitant. There are Rock-rabbit tracks, and there are the tracks of the Rheebök and Grysbök, all to be readily distinguished by an educated eye.

The great variety of the flowers at the Cape is a source of constant interest to the naturalist. It is also pleasant to see, in their wild condition, large numbers of beautiful flowers, with which one has long been familiar as the chief decoration of green-houses at home. All over the hills grow "Everlastings" (*Helichrysum*), some with large snow-white flowers, others of various bright tints. There is an endless variety of handsome heaths, and numerous familiar Pelargoniums. Amongst bulbs, there are various showy Gladiolas and various species of Iris, and the tall white-flowered Aroid (*Richardia ethiopica*), commonly called "*Arum*," without the white spathe and golden spadix of which no English conservatory is complete; all these are very common.

I had not, before I saw the Cape flora, realized the wonderful power of change-ringing, as it were, in plants. Here may be seen a plant with a yellow flower, very like a dandelion, but with leaves dark on the upper surface, and downy beneath, yet in shape like those of our familiar plant. Close by, one meets with a similar flower with needle-like leaves, like those of a heath; close by again, is another growing on a low bush with leaves, something in the style of those of the holly: then again, another with extremely sharp stout thorny spines for leaves, then another heath-like, but with the leaves reduced to small tubercles. These are all forms with this one sort of flower (I speak only as to outward appearance). One easily finds a white-flowered daisy, as it were, ringing similar changes, and so on. Lobelias, again, are to be seen with exactly similar looking blue flowers ringing all the changes of heath forms, spiny forms, etc.

Amongst the animals which live on the Cape Peninsula, the clawless otter (*Lutra inunguis*) is worthy of mention: it is very large, twice or three times as large when full grown as the European otter. It lives about the salt marshes and lakes, and is tolerably common; it hunts like the South American marine otter, in companies, but only of three or four. It has no claws on the fore feet, having lost them by natural selection in some way or other, and on the hinder feet the claws are wanting on the outer toes, and only rudiments of them remain on the middle ones. There are, however, pits marking the places where the claws used to exist. The web-