

Botany of the Expedition.—The notes on the Botanical Observations (see p. 27) issued to the Naturalists of the Expedition in the instructions of the Circumnavigation Committee of the Royal Society, were prepared at the Royal Gardens, Kew. During the cruise the botanical collections were made by Mr. Moseley, who despatched them direct to Kew from various ports. Preliminary notices of these collections by various specialists, and notes by Mr. Moseley on the general aspects of the vegetation of many of the places visited, have from time to time been published in the Journal of the Linnean Society.¹ Setting aside the necessarily fragmentary continental collections, it was decided to limit the Botanical Reports to a review of Insular floras which came within the range of the Expedition, combining for this purpose the materials already in existence at Kew with the new facts brought to light by the Challenger collections. The task of preparing these Reports was entrusted to Mr. W. B. Hemsley, A.L.S., who had at all times the assistance of Sir Joseph Hooker, Professor Oliver, and Mr. Thiselton Dyer.

Mr. Hemsley writes:—“Each island or group of islands is treated separately, and complete lists are given of all the indigenous plants known, together with their synonymy, distribution, and other particulars of interest. The islands whose vegetation is thus dealt with are:—The Bermudas, St. Paul’s Rocks, Fernando Noronha, Ascension, St. Helena, South Trinidad, Tristan da Cunha group, Prince Edward and Marion, the Crozets, Kerguelen, the M’Donald group, St. Paul, Amsterdam, Juan Fernandez, Mas-a-fuera, San Ambrosio, San Felix, the Southeastern Moluccas, and the Admiralty Islands. For purposes of comparison, and to render the work more useful, two or three islands not visited by the Expedition are included.

“The results of the investigation of the floras of these oceanic islands are important and interesting, especially in relation to the means and agencies which have operated to effect the present geographical distribution of plants. Many facts and theories bearing upon this subject are touched upon in the foregoing Narrative; but some of the more striking features of these Insular floras are brought together here. Beginning with the flora of the Bermudas, this is evidently of comparatively recent derivation, and is almost wholly composed of species either inhabiting the opposite coast of North America or the West Indian Islands, or both. A very small number of the species have not been absolutely identified with others, but they are so closely allied to others from the regions named that there can be no doubt as to their origin. Associated with a large number of undoubtedly introduced plants there are about one hundred and fifty species which probably reached the islands independently of man, and are hence said to be indigenous. Of this number upwards of one hundred also inhabit Southeastern North America, and about as many the West Indies, while between eighty and ninety are found in all three localities. The only really arboreous species are the Palmetto (*Sabal blackburniana*)

¹ For a list of these publications, see Bibliography, Appendix VI.