William Botting Hemsley, Botany of the Challenger Expedition: Report on the Present State of Knowledge of Various Insular Floras (1

investigation of Insular Floras and Faunas. Although there are references in the writings of botanists of the last half of the eighteenth century, and of the first half of the present century, to some of the peculiar features of Insular Floras and Faunas, it is only within the last fifty years, or thereabouts, that their composition and origin have been the object of particular study.

Darwin, C.—The works of Darwin are so widely read that it seems almost superfluous to enter into any details here respecting their nature and scope. His Journal of Researches, and Origin of Species, abound in facts and suggestions relating to the distribution of plants and animals. It was he who first recognised, or at least thoroughly investigated, the means of transoceanic migration; and it is to him that we are so largely indebted for directing the thinking and observing powers of the present generation of naturalists in the proper channels for obtaining true knowledge. He also conducted a number of experiments to ascertain the capability of certain seeds to bear immersion in salt water without injury, and made various investigations showing how seeds are conveyed by birds in their feet and beaks, and in their stomachs. In short, he practically laid the foundation of the inquiry into the means and modes by which remote islands became stocked with plants and animals.

Hooker, Sir J. D.—The first work of importance by this author is his Essay on the Vegetation of the Galapagos Archipelago, concerning the botany of which nothing was previously known. Two-thirds of the species enumerated were new to science, and so distinct in character as to afford materials for the foundation of a new branch of botanical inquiry in relation to the means by which the seeds of plants are conveyed long distances, and their species thereby diffused. It is perhaps the first work on Insular Floras of a philosophical character, and the forerunner of and guide to subsequent literature on the same subject. The seeds and seed-vessels of the various plants are described, and their capabilities for transport by various means indicated; and the affinities and origin of the Flora fully discussed.

The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage contains much relating to Insular Floras, and more especially that part of it entitled the Antarctic Flora, which embodies all that was known forty years ago concerning the flora of a portion of the region to which the islands from the Tristan da Cunha group to the Macdonald group belong. The first part consists of the Flora of Lord Auckland and Campbell Islands, and the second deals with Fuegia, the Falklands, and the Tristan da Cunha group, and other islands eastward to Kerguelen Island. Previously, nothing of importance had been published on the botany of this region; and subsequently the same author has published various other papers relating thereto, for which we refer to the bibliography at p. 81. The Introductory Essay on the Australian Flora in the Flora Tasmaniæ—a work of immense labour, executed at a time

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