

no species of *Eucalyptus*. Only fragments of the New Caledonian flora have been published, but from a rough manuscript list of New Caledonian plants contained in the Paris Herbarium, compiled by Sir Joseph Hooker twenty-five years ago, the Australasian character of the vegetation is evident. Examples are offered by such genera as *Cordyline* \*, *Dianella*, *Araucaria*, *Frenela*, *Dacrydium*, *Hedycarya*, *Casuarina* (five species), *Exocarpus*, *Grevillea*, *Cenarrhenes*, *Knightia*, *Stenocarpus*, *Myoporum* (four species), *Leucopogon* (twelve species), *Dracophyllum* (ten species), *Hibbertia* (fifteen species), *Pittosporum* (twenty-five species), and *Boronia* (eighteen species). It is noteworthy that the phanerogamic flora of New Caledonia, unlike that of New Zealand, is exceedingly rich in species, yet, as in New Zealand, many characteristic Australian groups of plants are wholly wanting.

The flora of New Zealand has been so exhaustively discussed by Hooker, Wallace, Engler, and others, that it is inexplicable why Drude should have raised it to the rank of a primary region. It is remarkable for its poverty and the total absence of many of the most characteristic Australian types; yet, apart from the extraordinary development of such widely spread genera as *Ranunculus*, *Epilobium*, and *Veronica*, the flora is so essentially Australian that it is difficult to understand why there should be any hesitation in treating it as a subregion of the Australasian flora; especially by an author who would include the Sandwich Islands in the Indian region.

As far as the Flora of Madagascar and adjacent islands is concerned, the reasons for regarding it as a primary region are more intelligible; and some zoologists have proposed the same thing; but recent explorations prove that it should rank as a subregion of Africa †. Although rich in endemic genera and species, it is not relatively more so probably than the Malay Archipelago or Ceylon in Asia. It is true that the small order Chlænaceæ is apparently peculiar to the island, for there is little doubt that the two members of this order recorded from Mozambique were collected by Forbes on the Madagascar side of the channel of that name. Briefly, the forest flora of Madagascar is closely related to that of tropical Africa, while South-African forms reappear in the hill flora; and it exhibits still closer affinities with Mauritius, Bourbon, and the neighbouring islands.

Sufficient has been advanced perhaps to show that Drude's divisions are not always the best that could be devised, and that his primary divisions are too numerous, or, from another standpoint, not numerous enough to attain the nearest approach to equality.

Ten years ago Mr. Thiselton Dyer ‡ drew up a concise and pregnant sketch of the

\* It must not be assumed that the generic identifications hastily made are in all instances absolutely correct.

† See Baker in 'Journal of Botany,' 1881.

‡ "A Lecture on Plant Distribution as a field for Geographical Researches," Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, xxii. 1878.