

extent also this has been done for the subregions or secondary divisions; but it is obviously beyond the scope of the present sketch to pursue this to the end. Yet, without attempting to define secondary and further divisions of all the primary regions, it may be possible to give further particulars, which, with what has preceded, shall convey some general idea of the extensions of the characteristic types of the floras of these regions.

Wallace states that nothing like a perfect zoological division of the earth is possible; and a perfect botanical division is equally impossible. Therefore the aim is a division that conveys in itself some notion of the extent of the dispersion of the characteristic types of each region. As already pointed out, it is obvious that a botanical division cannot be based on one class of plants, equivalent, if such could be found, to the Mammalia; but rather on the general composition of the vegetation, and largely, too, apart from latitudinal position. On this plan it is not difficult to distinguish five primary regions; but if this number be exceeded, it must be doubled or trebled with a less satisfactory result. These five primary regions are:—

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|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Northern. | 4. South American. |
| 2. African.  | 5. Australasian.   |
| 3. Indian.   |                    |

These regions are unequal in extent, and the southern divisions are meridional rather than latitudinal; but the greater degree of differentiation of the vegetation justifies such a division; and a natural subdivision of the northern region, excluding the arctic zone, and, perhaps, the coldest arboreal zone, is in the same direction. But these five regions do not include quite all, because, for reasons given, the Sandwich-Island Flora cannot consistently be included in any one of them; and it would convey a false impression to rank this comparatively small, though highly peculiar Flora, as a primary region. Further, there is a remnant of an antarctic Flora which is scattered all round the hemisphere, constituting the coldest southern zone of vegetation. These exceptional phanerogamic Floras will be separately discussed.

An alternative primary division, which is more in accord with the writings of many botanists, and has some practical advantages over the one proposed, may be thus stated:—

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|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Northern Region.    |                          |                         |
| 2. Neotropical Region. | 3. Palæotropical Region. |                         |
| 4. Andine Region.      | 5. Cape Region.          | 6. Australasian Region. |

The anomalous Sandwich-Islands Flora and the fragmentary Antarctic Flora would be unattached in this, as in the foregoing plan. It is unnecessary to define these alternative regions, as their denominations are sufficiently descriptive to be intelligible. One of the advantages this division possesses over the one advocated, or rather the one point in which it radically differs, is the separation of the tropical and temperate