

which concerns us. In his own words:—"The fourth large province stretches from the southern boundaries of the Montana [Rocky Mountains] and Californian floral provinces, and from the very ill-defined western limits of the Atlantic States, in about 93° W. long., southward to the mouth of the Rio del Norte and away over the interior highlands to the Sierra Madre in Mexico, where it terminates in a point a little within the tropics, leaving the Atlantic and Pacific coasts up to the 27th parallel in the tropical province"\*. This he names the province of Texas and North Mexico. The remainder of our territory comes within Drude's 'floral kingdom' of tropical America generally, though excluding the high Andes, and constitutes a province which he designates the Mexican. This province is nearly conterminous with Grisebach's; but it also includes Yucatan and the Atlantic side of Central America.

It is not our intention to discuss the merits of the divisions proposed by the authors cited. Collectively they contain most of the ideas of our own, which were suggested by a study of all the available material.

It cannot be denied, however, that the divisions adopted in this work, as indicated on the map at least, are also, to some extent, unsatisfactory and open to criticism, particularly as the northward extensions of tropical types in the coast regions, and the southward extensions of xerophilous types in the dry upland regions, are not shown. But these are defects of detail, largely due to imperfect data, and after all very slightly affecting any general conclusions, as evidenced by the synopsis of facts below.

The country investigated in this work extends through 24° of latitude, the northern limit being the thirty-third parallel on the western and the twenty-sixth on the eastern side, with an altitudinal range of about 17,000 feet within the tropics.

In the Enumeration habitats are recorded for the plants according to the political divisions of the country†, and they are tabulated on the same basis, with an ultimate reduction to three floral provinces—a northern, a central, and a southern. Unfortunately a large number of the Mexican plants in herbaria are so vaguely labelled that it is only from a knowledge of the itineraries of collectors that it has been possible to assign them to their respective provinces; but in some instances information on this point is wanting. In all calculations the Mexican plants of uncertain origin are added to the South-Mexican flora; but it was perhaps a little precipitate to assume that they all belonged to this province. Not that this course has unduly augmented the number of species inhabiting South Mexico, though the North-Mexican total may have thereby suffered a trifling reduction. Succulent plants, such as the Cactaceæ and those of the *Agave* and *Yucca* type, are largely known only from cultivated specimens, of Mexican

\* Ibid. p. 63.

† We have very few plants from Yucatan and British Honduras, almost nothing from Spanish Honduras, and although the general character of the vegetation of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama is known, it is far from having been exhaustively investigated.