4° and 6°, and even on some days not lower than zero (= 32° F.). This was particularly the case whilst the north-east "Föhn" wind prevailed, to which East Greenland is indebted for its comparatively mild winters; but there are places where the ice lies firm throughout the winter. On December 5, during a "Föhn" wind, the thermometer rose to + 10° C. After the beginning of the new year, however, the cold became more severe, and the "Föhn" winds less frequent.

Towards the end of January and in February the thermometer sometimes registered 20° C. of frost, and on March 9 it fell to − 21°·5, the lowest temperature registered during the winter.

Some interesting particulars are also given of the almost unknown district in which the Expedition wintered. The station Namortalik is described as situated on an island, and as having a population of 250 souls. The island, which bears the same name, is surrounded by several others, which, lying further out to sea, are visited during the spring by the natives, who catch seals and eider-ducks there. To the north the scenery of Greenland is seen in all its grandeur and beauty; wild mountains with lofty cones rising above the clouds. These are on the beautiful but almost unapproachable island of Sermerok. If the air be clear, and the weather calm and sunny, the little island lies so peacefully in the ocean that one feels tempted to climb the lofty mountains; but when the storm hovers around the peaks, half hidden in drifting clouds, and the Polar Sea is a mass of foam, the giant forms of the mountains deter even the boldest. The mainland is rugged, like the island just mentioned; in fact, the whole southern portion of Greenland is a region of wild mountains, furrowed by tremendous ravines, and rising to a height of nearly 8000 feet, from which enormous glaciers descend to the sea. The landscape produces by its wildness and desolation very striking impressions.

There are thirty little turf-covered houses at Namortalik, including a bakery and a brewery. The so-called "Royal Commerce of Greenland," a Danish Company, has also a depot here. There is, besides, a Lutheran mission, a church, and a school attended by half-caste Greenlanders.

The Expedition has erected two observatories on the rocks, about 1000 feet from the dwelling-houses, but connected by telephone.

Close to Namortalik is the Tasermint Fjord, some fifty miles in length, one of the loveliest in South Greenland. On its shores the vegetation is very luxuriant in summer, and the heat and mosquitoes are so troublesome that one could imagine one's self in the tropics. This fjord is of great importance to the Namortalik people, as its shores provide them with fuel, its streams and waters with salmon, seals, and herrings, and its mountain-slopes with ptarmigans, Polar hares, and foxes.

When the summer commenced, the Expedition intended to leave their quarters, and continue the exploration of the east coast; but there is at present no news of their achievements this summer. The programme is, however, to explore the east coast by sea and land as far north as possible, and to get into communication with the natives whenever opportunity offers, in which latter attempt nearly all previous Expeditions have been disappointed.

At the beginning of this winter one half of the Expedition was to return to Namortalik, while the second endeavoured to spend the winter as far north as possible. The Expedition will leave Greenland in the autumn of next year.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Journal of Botany, August to November.—The most important article in the recent numbers of this magazine is Mr. Charles Bailey's paper on the structure, &c., of *Naias graminea*, Delile, var. *Delilei*, Magnus, illustrated with four plates and many woodcuts. This interesting addition to the British flora—first found in 1883 in a canal in Lancashire—is a native of warmer climates, not being indigenous anywhere in Europe, and has probably been introduced with Egyptian cotton. Mr. Bailey gives an exhaustive account of the morphology of its various organs, and especially of its mode of fertilisation. The *Naias* belongs to a class of plants that may be called "protozoophilous," the pollen being carried to the stigma by aquatic animals of low organisation, in this instance by the currents caused by the rotating cilia of species of Vorticellidæ.—Most of the other articles in these numbers are of more limited interest, being topographical papers on the flowering plants or cryptogams of particular districts, or descriptions of new or little-known species.—Additional instalments are also given of Mr. J. G. Baker's synopsis of the genus *Selaginella*, which is still uncompleted, the species now described amounting to 180.

Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano, July to October.—The greater part of the space in the July number of this magazine is occupied by descriptive papers. The paper of most general interest is that by A. Piccone, on the algæ of the Red Sea. He shows that the algal flora of this sea shows much closer affinities to that of the Indian Ocean than of the Mediterranean. It is characterised by the small number of diatoms and of green algæ generally, by the entire absence of Laminarieæ, and, above all, by its extraordinary richness in species of *Sargassum*, many of them endemic.—In the October number are a synopsis of the flora of Sicily, and a list of the "pronubi" or insect-fertilisers of flowering plants in Calabria and Piedmont; also a note by R. Pirotta, showing, from an examination of the oospores, the identity of *Cystopus capparidis*, parasitic on the caper, with *Cystopus candidus*, the common parasite of cruciferous plants.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

LONDON

Linnean Society, November 6.—Sir J. Lubbock, Bart., President, in the chair.—A letter was read intimating that their late President, Mr. G. Bentham, had bequeathed in his will a legacy of 1000*l.* to the Society.—A notice of invitation for the Fellows to attend the centenary (December 4) of the Royal Bohemian Society of Natural History in Prague was also read from the chair.—Mr. W. T. Thiselton Dyer exhibited the following plants and their products:—(1) *Vaccinium arctostaphylus*, from which the Trebizonde tea ("Thé-du-Bu-Dagh") is prepared at Amassia and Tokat. The tea has a pleasant odour, but a somewhat harsh taste when drunk. (2) *Pueraria Thunbergiana*, specimens of this Corean plant and of the cloth made from it. (3) *Pachyrhyza sinensis*, with the native name of "Kopoo," a leguminous plant from the fibres of which the yellow and more expensive summer cloth is made.—Mr. Thos. Christy showed and made remarks on a specimen of *Kola acuminata*.—Mr. R. A. Rolfe afterwards exhibited examples of British oak-galls produced by Cynipidean insects of the genus *Neuroterus*. These were the silk-button gall formed by *N. numismatis*, the globose gall produced by *N. ostreus*, the smooth-spangle gall formed by *N. fumipennis*, the scarce-spangle gall formed by *N. læviusculus*, and the common spangle gall produced by *N. lenticularis*, as also a purple variety of the latter gall. He stated that the plan and details of the galls depend on the nature of the irritating fluid deposited by the insect; but on the other hand the different species of oak seem to have an influence in determining certain variations as to colour, and, it may be, general growth, of the galls.—Mr. Geo. Brook read a paper on the development of the Five-bearded Rockling (*Motella mustela*) in which the following points were enunciated:—(1) Whereas there is only one large oil globule in the normal egg of *Motella*, sometimes this is subdivided into from two to eight or even more; but in these cases there is always an abnormal development which often results in the death of the embryo. In those that survive, the small oil globules always coalesce to form one large one before the embryo hatches. (2) In the further development of the newly-hatched embryo there is a cranial flexure produced which is analogous to that so characteristic of Elasmobranchs. This is caused by the rapid development of the dorsal portion of the head, while the ventral portion remains comparatively quiescent. Later, the ventral portion plays its part, and, with the development of the jaws the brain is pushed back to its normal position. (3) As in other pelagic Teleostean eggs, there is no circulation observable either in the embryo or in the vitellus up to the time of hatching, nor indeed for some days afterwards. (4) In *Motella* the anal gut does not open on the ventral surface for at least a week after hatching. Ryder has shown the same to be the case with the cod-fish, so that the young *Gadidæ* would not appear to be in a position to take solid food at nearly so early a period in their existence as is usual with Teleosteans. Mr. Brook also called attention to the influence of temperature on the rate of development of pelagic eggs, and suggested that, until we know the temperature at which the various observations are made on these forms, no true comparison can be established.—The next communication was on a collection of