

features are two mountain ranges, running pretty well parallel to each other from east to west. The northernmost of these two ranges extends almost the whole length of the island from Cape Kormakiti on the north-west to Cape St. Andrea at the end of the horn-like promontory which stretches for 40 miles from the north-east of the island. This promontory is called the Carpas, and the low mountain chain running through it is called the Carpas range. The westernmost and higher portion of the northern range is called the Kyrenia range, and rises to an altitude of 3340 feet. This range is of a remarkably picturesque outline, in some parts extremely rugged. It is mostly a single ridge without any remarkable spurs, and its summit is about two miles from the northern coast. It can be crossed in many places. The chief mountain peaks of this range are Kornos, 3105 feet; Buffavento, 3140; and Pentadaktylos, 2400. The last named is a remarkably shaped rock in the centre of the Kyrenian range, owing its name to its shape, the word Pentadaktylos signifying in Greek "five-fingered." Beneath this rock there rushes out southward from the mountain side, at an altitude of 870 feet, a torrent of water, which never ceases to flow summer or winter, and which, descending into the great plain in the centre of the island, carries its fertilizing streams to the lands of several villages, its course marked by mills, gardens, and trees, until its water is exhausted by various irrigating channels. A similar stream of water gushes from the northern side, about 12 miles west of the Kyrenia Pass. Smaller streams descend on either side of the range at various places; their waters are used for irrigation in the valleys. The southern range of mountains is of a much more extensive nature than the northern range. The easternmost point of this range is the mountain of Santa Croce, so called from the church of the Holy Cross which stands on its summit. This mountain, which is 2260 feet in height, is of a peculiar shape. Beginning then from this point the southern range rapidly rises to considerable altitudes, finally culminating in Mount Troodos, the highest point in Cyprus, being 6406 feet above the sea-level. The other chief peaks in the southern range, are Adelphé, 5305 feet; and Machera, 4674 feet. But it is not only in altitude that the Troodos range is distinguished; numerous spurs run down to the north and south, and as we proceed further west these radiate out to greater distances, so that half way between Troodos and the sea, the mountain range is not less than 20 miles wide. Here there are very considerable forests, many miles in extent, rarely visited save by wandering flocks and by wood-cutters, and affording shelter to the moufflon, or wild sheep of Europe, some 200 or 300 of which still roam over these hills. On the map it will be seen that numerous rivers descend from both sides of the southern range. These are mostly dry in summer, but after rain their waters descend with violence, filling up the river-beds in the plains, carrying away trees and cultivated patches, and often rushing in a turbid stream into the bays of Famagusta and Morphou. Between the two mountain ranges there lies a great plain called the Mesaorea, which is the most fertile part of Cyprus, growing large crops of wheat, barley, and cotton. It was evidently once the bottom of the sea, for in many parts are large beds of marine shells—gigantic oysters and others—all clustered in masses. A noticeable feature of this plain is the number of flat-topped plateaux of various sizes, where the rock seems to have resisted the action of the water. The tops of these plateaux are clothed with short herbage, affording a scanty provision for flocks, and are usually from 100 to 200 feet above the plain. The rivers which descend from the hills carry down large quantities of alluvial soil, and this forms in the eastern part of the Mesaorea a rich deposit, something similar to the Delta of the Nile. The two rivers which mainly contribute to this plain are the Pedæus and the Idalia, the former taking its rise from the northern slopes of Mount Machera, and the latter from the eastern slopes of the same mountain. The beds of these rivers have, however, become so choked up with alluvial deposit towards the end of their course, that their waters overflow the plain and mingle together, so that their separate mouths can with difficulty be distinguished. The normal condition of these rivers is to be without water, but whenever there is a heavy rainfall in the mountains, the river "comes down," as it is called, and runs for one, two, or more days. It occasionally happens that the water descends with great suddenness and violence, causing disastrous floods. Considerable supplies of water for irrigation purposes are obtained by sinking wells. A long chain of wells are sunk at distances of five or six yards apart, and being connected by underground galleries, a channel is thus formed which conveys the water to a reservoir constructed

at the foot of the last well, and it is thence raised to the surface by a water-wheel; or in some cases the level of the ground admits of the channel being brought out on the surface. In this way the town of Nicosia is supplied with excellent water, which is brought in two aqueducts from a distance of some miles. Larnaca and Famagusta and other towns have similar aqueducts. Closely connected with the water supply is the forest question. Sir Robert Biddulph then entered into detail with reference to the denudation of Cyprus of its forests, and the great locust-plagues which have been so successfully treated since the British occupation.

THE FLORA OF CHINA.¹

SINCE the last meeting of the British Association, two additional parts of the "Index Floræ Sinensis" have been published, bringing the enumeration of known, and the description of new, species as far as the *Loganiaceæ*. The Committee now, therefore, look forward with some confidence to the completion of their labours at no distant date.

Further extensive and valuable collections have been received from China in aid of the work, more especially from Dr. Augustine Henry, late of Ichang. The novelty and richness of the material obtained by this indefatigable botanist far exceeds any expectations the Committee could have formed. It is to be regretted that his duties as an officer of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs have necessitated his removal to Hainan. It is probable, however, that he had practically exhausted the immediate neighbourhood of Ichang, and that without opportunities of travelling over a wider radius, which the Committee regret they were unable to procure for him, he would not have been able to add much of material novelty to the large collections already transmitted by him to Kew.

The Committee have met with the kindest sympathy and assistance in their labours from Dr. C. J. de Maximowicz, of the Académie Impériale of St. Petersburg, who has long been engaged on the elaboration of the collections made by Russian travellers in China, and from M. Franchet, of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris, who is describing and publishing the extremely rich collections made by the French missionaries in Yunnan.

The Committee have received striking proofs of the appreciation of their labours by botanists of all countries. They permit themselves to quote the following passage from a letter received early in the present year from Baron Richthofen, than whom no one is more competent to estimate the value of work connected with the scientific exploration of China:—

"It is of great value to have, now, a Flora of China, embodying all the species known from that country. You have evidently succeeded at Kew in getting a very complete collection. At the same time, in looking over the localities mentioned in the book, it strikes me that large portions of China are still unexplored botanically. There remains a splendid field for a good collector in the Tsingling Mountains, the province of Sz'chuen, and chiefly its elevated region west of Ching-tu-fu. Work in those parts will be greatly facilitated by the solid foundation laid through the work of Forbes and Hemsley."

The Committee derive an independent existence as a Subcommittee of the Government Grant Committee of the Royal Society. They are at present in possession of sufficient funds to enable them to carry on the work. They do not therefore ask for their reappointment at the hands of the British Association.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

American Journal of Science, October.—Assuming that the earth's crust rests on a layer of liquid as a floating body, Mr. Le Conte here offers an explanation of normal faults. The crust is supposed to be raised into an arch, by intumescence of the liquid, caused by steam or hydrostatic pressure; it is thus broken by long more or less parallel fissures into oblong prismatic

Third Report of the Committee, consisting of Mr. Thiselton-Dyer (Secretary), Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Ball, Prof. Oliver and Mr. Forbes, appointed for the purpose of continuing the preparation of a Report on our present knowledge of the Flora of China.