

scimitar-like form. This, I would venture to suggest, may be in consequence of one side being turned outwards, and therefore under more favorable conditions.

We have hitherto been considering, for the most part, deciduous trees. It is generally supposed that in autumn the leaves drop off because they die. My impression is that most persons would be very much surprised to hear that this is not altogether the case. In fact, however, the separation is a vital process, and, if a bough is killed, the leaves are not thrown off, but remain attached to it. Indeed, the dead leaves not only remain *in situ*, but they are still firmly attached. Being dead and withered, they give the impression that the least shock would detach them; on the contrary, however, they will often bear a weight of as much as two pounds without coming off.

Some leaves, as those of most of the evergreens, which remain on the tree for several years, are tough and leathery, while in others, as the English holly, they are spinose. This serves as a protection from browsing animals; and in this way we can, I think, explain the curious fact that, while young hollies have spiny leaves, those of older trees, which are out of the reach of browsing animals, tend to become quite unharmed.

Another point of much importance in the economy of leaves is the presence or absence of hairs. The hairs which occur in so many leaves are of several types. Thus, leaves are called silky when clothed with long, even, shining hairs (silver weed); pubescent or downy when they are clothed with soft, short hairs (strawberry); pilose when the hairs are long and scattered (herb-robert); rillous when the hairs are rather long, soft, white, and close (forget-me-not); hirsute when the hairs are long and numerous (rose-campion); hispid when they are erect and stiff (borage); setose when they are long, spreading, and bristly (poppy); tomentose when they are rather short, soft, and matted; woolly when long, oppressed, curly, but not matted (corn-centaury); velvety when the pubescence is short and soft to the touch (fox-glove); cobwebby when the hairs are long, very fine, and interlaced like a cobweb (thistle). The arrangement