

may occur in mountainous country when drainage is impeded so as to form local accumulations of water.

Humidity is a very important regulator of the distribution of bogs. Wooded moors favour the growth of mosses, owing to the air there being more moist than in the open country. Hence it is that the bogs in low-lying areas seldom have trees buried in them, whereas in mountain bogs trees are plentiful, the growth of the moss being favoured by the fallen trunks damming back the water so as to form pools."

The peat bogs are generally classified as high bogs (Hochmoore) and low bogs (Niederungsmoore).

High Bogs.—The vegetable matter forming these bogs is principally made up of the remains of mosses, heath plants and of forest residue. On account of the moisture absorbing property of the sphagna in particular, these bogs are like enormous sponges, retaining large quantities of water, which furthermore favours the growth of this vegetation. Under favourable conditions these bogs may attain considerable depth, especially in their central parts, where the drainage is less and the growth of the moss more profuse. In many instances these parts are on a higher level than the rest of the bog and often from 15 to 50 feet or more in depth.

Low Bogs.—The vegetable matter forming these bogs is made up of the remains of plants requiring more nourishment than the plants forming the vegetation of a high bog. The principal vegetation on low bogs is grasses, sedges, reeds and rushes. Low bogs chiefly occur in localities which are occasionally or periodically flooded.

In a great number of cases the conditions under which a bog has been formed have changed from time to time, resulting in different vegetation and in peat of different qualities. Bogs of this nature are classified as mixed bogs (Übergangsmoore or Mishmoore.)

The different classes of peat are divided into two large groups*:—I. moss peat, and II. grass peat, each of which is subdivided into smaller groups.

I. MOSS PEAT.

This group is subdivided into three smaller groups:

a. Sphagnum Peat.—The porous character of the sphagna and its composition, which practically consists of cellulose with only a small percentage of albumen, makes the sphagnum peat very resistant to humification. It contains a very small amount of inorganic substances, growing as it does on ground and water containing little nourishment, and gives, therefore, when burnt very little ash. Well humified, it has fairly good cohesion and produces a good fuel, which, however, is comparatively light and porous and under unfavourable weather conditions requires longer time for drying than a fuel made from a more compact peat. The weight per unit of volume is con-

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