

diameter. When dry it rolls up into a dull grayish ball, but upon the return of moisture expands again into a beautiful green flat rosette, The Hon. Senator Dickey writes as follows of a specimen which was brought to him by a friend from Mexico:

"The habitat of this strange plant is in the crevices of mountain rocks, to which it clings as a dry nest-like ball of twigs, in the dry season. In the rainy season the stems uncurl and the plant flourishes as a beautiful rosette of brilliant green. On the return of the dry season, it again curls up to be brought back again to life the next year with the return of the rainy season. The peculiarity of this plant is that you can witness the phenomenon of its opening and shutting as often as you please, when the plant is, so to speak, in confinement. I had the opportunity of testing this repeatedly last summer after my friend had brought it in his trunk from Mexico, and before I sent it on another 3,000 miles to my son-in-law in London, who has had the same experience. As a dry roll of brittle tangled fibres, it can be sent for thousands of miles rolled up in a piece of brown paper, and a few hours after being placed in a saucer filled with water, will gradually present an appearance of the greatest beauty."

The following extract is from a letter received by Mr. Dickey from his son-in-law, Mr. H. E. Milner:

"The name of your Resurrection plant is *Selaginella convoluta*, a species which occurs from Mexico right through tropical America. There are several Resurrection plants; a Japanese one is a *Selaginella* nearly allied to the species you sent over. The plant usually called Resurrection plant and connected with the Holy Land is a small Crucifer, *Anastatica Hierochuntina*, but opinion, in which Mr. Nicholson, the Curator of Kew shares, now is that the true thing is a Composite. The plant appears on the arms of some of the old crusader families and certainly the plant there figured is not the Crucifer, but the Composite."

Another opinion with regard to the Resurrection plant of heraldry, referred to above, is that it is a species of *Mysembranthemum*.

The interesting *Selaginella* spoken of by Mr. Dickey is apparently not the same species as that usually sold in shops in