

are Arctic European, many of which prevail throughout the polar area, being distributed in the following proportions through its different longitudes :—

Arctic Europe.....	616	Scandinavian forms	586	Asiatic and American	30 = 1 : 19'57
“ Asia.....	233	“	189	“	44 = 1 : 4'2
“ W. America.	364	“	254	“	110 = 1 : 2'3
“ E. America .	379	“	269	“	110 = 1 : 2'4
“ Greenland ..	207	“	195	“	12 = 1 : 16'2

This table places in a most striking point of view the anomalous condition of Greenland, which, though so favourably situated for harbouring an Arctic American vegetation, and so unfavourably for an Arctic European one, presents little trace of the botanical features of the great continent to which it geographically belongs, and an almost absolute identity with those of Europe. Moreover, the peculiarities of the Greenland flora are not confined to these ; for a detailed examination shows that it differs from all other parts of the arctic regions in wanting many extremely common Scandinavian plants which advance far north in all the other polar districts, and that the general poverty of its flora in species is more due to an abstraction of arctic types than to a deficiency of temperature. This is proved by an examination of the temperate portion of the Greenland peninsula, which adds very few plants to the entire flora, as compared with a similar area south of any other arctic region ; and these few are chiefly arctic plants and almost without exception Arctic Scandinavian species.

There is nothing in the physical features of the arctic regions, their oceanic or aerial currents, their geographical relations, nor their temperature, which, in my opinion, at all accounts for the exceptional character of the Greenland flora ; nor do I see how it can be explained, except by assuming that extensive changes of climate, and of land and sea, have exerted great influence, first, in directing the migration of the Scandinavian species over the whole polar zone, and afterwards in introducing the Asiatic and American species with which the Scandinavian are so largely associated in all the arctic districts except those of Europe and Greenland. It is inconceivable to me that, under existing conditions of sea, land, and temperature, so many Scandinavian plants should have found their way westward to Greenland, by migration across the Atlantic, and stopped short on its west coast, not crossing to America ;—or that so many American types should terminate as abruptly on the west coast of Baffin's Bay, and not