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III. Notes on the Flora of the Isle of May, Firth of Forth.

By JOHN SADLER, F.R.Ph.S.

Mr Sadler gave an account of an excursion which he had made to the Isle of May on Friday, 11th August 1871, with the British Association, and noted the plants which he and Professor Balfour had observed growing on the Island. The party numbered upwards of 130. They left Leith in the Britannia steamer about one o'clock, and reached the May at three. After spending a couple of hours roaming over the island, they returned to Leith. As is known, the island is the largest in the Firth of Forth, being three miles in circumference, one mile long, and three-quarters of a mile in breadth. There is a very small fresh water lake and spring in it. Where there is soil the pasture is tolerably good; but it is now being sadly destroyed by ant-hills. The ants, which have frequented the island, it is believed, for hundreds of years, have now increased to an alarming extent. A commission has visited the island to devise means for their destruction. It has been frequently stated that there is no place better adapted for the improving of wool, inasmuch as the coarsest-woolled sheep, when put upon the island, acquire in a single season fleeces as fine as satin. The rabbits in the island, too, are said to grow to a larger size, and to have finer fur than those on the mainland. This may depend, however, not so much on the pasture, as on the animals requiring a warmer and finer covering for the exposed situation in which they live, as we know to be the case in more northern latitudes. The island is almost wholly composed of greenstone, one of the secondary trap rocks,—a rock, too, which is regarded by botanists as the most productive. This, however, does not altogether hold good in the May, as the vegetation there is but scanty and starved, except in certain sheltered spots where there happens to be an accumulation of soil. There are, nevertheless, a few plants which are worthy of being specially noticed. The Scottish lovage (*Ligusticum scoticum*) grows in considerable quantity among the rocks on the west of the island; the sea pearlwort (*Sagina maritima*) is abundant in many places; the oyster plant (*Mertensia maritima*) occurs sparingly below the

lighthouse; the henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) is frequent, having probably been introduced with seeds or ballast, as it doubtless has been along the shores of the Firth of Forth; the Welsh worm-wood (*Artemisia maritima*, variety *gallica*), which is a rare plant in Scotland (although abundant at the mouth of the Tyne, near Tynninghame) occurs both in the north and west of the island; the English stone-crop (*Sedum anglicum*) literally clothes the ground in some places; the wart-cress (*Senebiera Coronopus*), near the lighthouse, has probably been introduced; the floating club-rush (*Scirpus fluitans*) is found at the fresh-water spring; the sea spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*) grows on the rocks on the west of the island, but generally in very un-get-at-able places, &c. In conclusion, Mr Sadler referred to a paper read by Professor Balfour in 1827 before the Plinian Society, on the natural history of the Isle of May. The paper had never been published; but, as it contained much interesting matter, he hoped the Professor would yet revise it, with the view of having it printed. Professor Wyville Thomson moved a vote of thanks to Mr Sadler for his communication, and gave some interesting information regarding the ants and ant-hills in the island.

The following is a list of the plants which were collected:—

Ranunculus Flammula.	Trifolium filiforme.
repens.	Lotus corniculatus.
acris.	Alchemilla arvensis.
Sinapis arvensis.	Potentilla anserina.
nigra.	Lepigonum marinum.
Cochlearia officinalis.	Sedum anglicum
danica.	acre.
Thlaspi arvense.	Helosciadium inundatum.
Senebiera Coronopus.	Ligusticum scoticum.
Cakile maritima.	Heracleum Sphondylium
Silene maritima.	Conium maculatum.
Sagina procumbens.	Galium Aparine.
maritima.	verum
Alsine tenuifolia.	saxatile
Arenaria serpyllifolia.	Bellis perennis.
Stellaria media.	Matricaria inodora.
Cerastium semidecandrum.	Artemisia maritima, var. gallica.
tetrandrum.	Senecio vulgaris.
Trifolium repens.	Jacobæa.

Arctium minus.	Eleocharis uniglumis.
Centaurea nigra.	acicularis.
Carduus lanceolatus.	Scirpus fluitans.
arvensis.	setaceus.
Apargia autumnalis.	Carex vulpina.
Leontodon Taraxacum.	arenaria.
Sonchus oleraceus.	Agrostis canina
arvensis.	vulgaris.
Mertensia maritima.	Holcus lanatus.
Myosotis versicolor.	Aira præcox.
Hyoscyamus niger.	Poa annua.
Lamium amplexicaule.	trivialis.
purpureum.	Sclerochloa maritima.
Glaux maritima.	Festuca ovina.
Armeria maritima.	Lolium perenne
Plantago Coronopus.	italicum.
lanceolata.	Asplenium marinum.
major.	Schistidium maritimum.
Chenopodium album.	Lecanora atra.
Atriplex littoralis	parella.
erecta.	Parmelia saxatilis.
Babingtonii.	aquila.
Rumex obtusifolius.	parietina.
Acetosella	Ramalina scopulorum.
Polygonum aviculare.	Cornicularia aculeata.
var. littoralis.	Scyphophorus alaicornis.
Callitriche verna.	pyxidatus.
Urtica urens.	Bovista sp.
dioica.	Agaricus campestris.
Triglochin maritimum.	Besides several species of Algæ.

IV. Notes on the Healing of Wounds in *Acer Pseudo-platanus*. By JOHN SADLER, F.R.Ph.S.

The author detailed a number of experiments which he had made on *Acer Pseudo-platanus*, to ascertain the mode in which wounds were healed. The following examples will show the results. During the last week of March 1871, a branch was cut with an ordinary pocket-knife round its entire circumference. The buds of the branch were at this time small and firm. The part removed was half an inch in width, and one-sixteenth of an inch deep, which included the bark and part of the wood. The wound was