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Steppes of Asia Minor

Elozetes jelentes Kisazsia steppeteruletten 1911--ben tett utazasomrol. by I. Andrasovsky
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Gentiana lutea, *Rumex alpinus*, *R. arifolius*, etc.); and swampy hollows whence streams arise (*Bartsia alpina*, *Soldanella alpina*, *Sweetia perennis*, *Viola palustris*, *Eriophorum polystachyum*, *Selaginella selaginoides*, etc.). The rich subalpine bryophyte flora is also noted.

Both papers are illustrated by beautiful photographs, those forming the large plates in (I) being particularly fine.

FORESTS OF PROVENCE

Tansley, A. G. "The forests of Provence." *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1912, 11 pp. (reprint), 7 figures.

The author points out that within a space of 30 miles all transitions may be traced between the typical Mediterranean coast vegetation and that of the high Alps. Since the underlying rock is almost everywhere limestone, the main factors differentiating the vegetation are climatic and correspond with a decrease of temperature and an increase of moisture in passing from the low hills of the coast to the high mountains of the Maritime and Provençal Alps. The influence of aspect upon the vegetation is very striking, the cooler and moister northern slopes frequently bearing quite a different flora from that of the sunny southern slopes. Four main forest zones are distinguished and described: (1) the Mediterranean types of *Pinus halepensis* and *P. maritima*, with *Quercus Suber* locally; (2) a belt in which *Quercus pubescens*, a deciduous oak allied to *Q. sessiliflora*, is dominant; (3) a belt of *Pinus sylvestris* extending into the subalpine region and forming the tree limit on slopes of southern aspect; (4) forest composed of *Picea excelsa* and *Larix* which form the uppermost belt, at least on northern slopes. The zonation is on the whole very well marked, though the four belts are much influenced by aspect and there is a good deal of mingling in the transitional zones.

STEPPES OF ASIA MINOR

Andrasovsky, I. "Előzetes jelentés Kisázsia steppeterületén 1911—ben tett utazásomról." *Botanikai Közlemények*, Budapest, **11**, 1912, pp. 57–64. With a German summary ("Vorläufiger Bericht über die im Jahre 1911 in den Steppen Kleinasiens ausgeführte Reise").

The author's observations appear, judging from the German summary appended to his paper, which is written in Magyar, to have been made in a region of great ecological interest. Asia Minor somewhat resembles Spain in physical features, consisting of a great inland plateau having an average elevation of 800 metres or more above the sea, fringed by a narrow strip of low-lying coast. The table-land is broken up into basins by great mountain ranges, and one of these basins, having no outlet to the sea, drains into an extensive series of shallow salt lakes extending from Phrygia through Lycaonia into Cappadocia. The climate shows a wide range from the hot damp littoral zone to the cold dry wind-swept central uplands. During his journey the author collected 800 species of flowering plants, chiefly Compositae, Papilionaceae, Cruciferae, Gramineae, Boraginaceae, and Labiatae; the cryptogamic flora is evidently very scanty. The steppe region of Asia Minor is developed in three basins, the vegetation of which is described. The volcanic tuffs showed an interesting flora, and in the Kara-Dagh and Karadja-Dagh mountains the steppe species ascend to a height of 1600 metres, above which comes the montane zone with *Quercus*, *Salix*, *Crataegus*, etc.; the most characteristic xerophytes are *Artemisia*, *Peganum*, cushion-forming species of *Acantholimon*, and densely hair-clad Labiates (*Thymus* and *Salvia* spp., etc.), while the high rocky ridges also show a markedly xerophilous vegetation including *Ephedra*, *Astragalus*, *Eryngium*, *Verbascum*, *Salvia*, *Carduus*, *Cirsium*, *Centaurea*, *Echinops*, *Artemisia*, etc. The flora of the great salt lake at Tuz Tcholu includes species of *Triglochin*, *Scirpus*, *Heleocharis*, *Asparagus*, *Atriplex*, *Rumex*, *Lepidium*, *Frankenia*, *Statice*, *Taraxacum*, *Scorzonera*, etc., showing the general characters of halophytes and strand-plants. The inland salt marshes of Tuzlu-Göl have the characteristic salt-marsh genera *Salicornia*, *Arthrocnemum* and *Plantago*.

It is greatly to be hoped that the author will publish his detailed account of the vegetation of this interesting region in German (or some other generally read language); the same remark applies to a considerable number of other papers on the vegetation of comparatively little explored areas, both in Asia and in south-eastern and eastern Europe, of which notices will appear in this JOURNAL later.