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III. Account of a Botanical Trip to the Vosges Mountains

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operculum convex, apiculate, annulus small, deciduous; inner peristome with cilia, outer peristome yellow; fruit-stalk one-third of an inch long.

I am sorry that I have not more perfect specimens to lay before the Society. Some of the capsules are immature, others are old. Indeed, the plant does not appear to fruit freely.

III. *Account of a Botanical Trip to the Vosges Mountains.*

By R. M. STARK, Esq.

IV. *Letter from Mr WM. BELL, dated Kaoligir (Dera Doon), 2d November 1867, to Professor Balfour.*

Forest management now receives a much larger share of the public attention than it formerly did, judging from the number of articles bearing on that subject that have lately appeared in some of the Indian papers. I shall endeavour to give, as it were, a bird's eye view of some of the forests which I passed through in a visit to the hills about two years ago. In doing so, I need not trouble you with any remarks about the vegetation, from the plains upwards—why some are well wooded, and others close to them are quite bare—why those with a western aspect are better wooded than those with an eastern one—why the crests of both the first and second ranges on the side facing the plains have nothing but a scrubby, scanty vegetation, while the back slopes have, as a rule, quite an arborescent one—but proceed to tell you what they are chiefly composed of, and the appearance they present to a stranger.

They are chiefly composed of oak—perhaps four or five species—I have observed one* only, perhaps two, on the outer range. Next Rhododendrons in point of size and numbers, and a sprinkling of Arbutus, which can scarcely be called a tree; *Ilex*, *Benthamia*, a few horse-chesnuts, and a *Cedrela*. There is very little underwood, and climbers are entirely wanting. In these respects hill forests contrast strikingly with those of the plains.

In the bottom of the deep valleys, *Caesalpinia*, *Mimosa*, *Guilandina*, *Smilax*, &c., form most impenetrable thickets,

* *Quercus incana*.