

result from the junction of two main streams flowing to the south of Sardinia and the north of Corsica respectively.

Many disputed questions are discussed by the authors of the papers in this report, and we await with interest the results of the biological investigations. There is no doubt that the fishes and other groups of animals inhabiting the Mediterranean area are still imperfectly known; while the investigation of the pelagic microscopic life of these seas is one which is full of interest. A good deal of such work has, of course, already been done, but the results of investigators thoroughly familiar with deep-sea work of this kind in the northern seas are sure to be interesting, and the comparisons which we may expect they will attempt ought to throw new light on many questions of general biological interest.

J. J.

THE GUM TREES OF AUSTRALIA.¹

MR. T. H. MAIDEN, the director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W., published the first part of his great work on the characteristic Australian genus *Eucalyptus* in 1903, and it has now reached the seventeenth part. There is no other country of the same extent as Australia in which one genus of trees largely predominates throughout and, at the same time, has few extensions beyond. It has been estimated that three-fourths of the forest vegetation of Australia consists of gum trees and bushes, yet the genus is not represented in the native flora of New Zealand, New Caledonia, Lord Howe Island, and other contiguous countries, including, I believe, New Guinea, though *E. alba* is a native of Timor.

But, like *Baeckia* and *Melaleuca*, other myrtaceous genera, *Eucalyptus* has a considerable northward extension in eastern Asia, limited, however, to one species the present distribution of which is peculiar. Mr. Maiden has succeeded in showing that this species, *E. naudiniana*, abundant in Neu Pommern (New Britain), is the same as that discovered in Mindanao, Philippines, by the United States Exploring Expedition (1838-42), and described under the name *multiflora*—a name previously occupied. These two localities are separated by about 13° of latitude and 25° of longitude, or, approximately, 1500 miles, and hitherto *E. naudiniana* has not been recorded from any intermediate locality. Its presence in the Philippines is an interesting fact in phytogeography, and the question arises, Is it a straggler of a southern migration, or is it, and similar outliers, a northward extension of a type of southern origin? But this is not the place to discuss the point.

So far Mr. Maiden has described and figured ninety-four species of *Eucalyptus*, and given all details available of their distribution, based on practically all the important herbarium material

¹ "A Critical Revision of the Genus *Eucalyptus*." By J. H. Maiden, Government Botanist of New South Wales. Parts xii-xvii. Plates 50-76, with descriptive letter-press. (Published by Authority of the Government of the State of New South Wales, 1910-13.) Price 2s. 6d. each part.

in existence, and a very wide personal experience in the forests of all parts of the country. Upwards of one-third of these ninety-four species are of later date than Bentham's "Flora Australiensis," or were not given specific rank by Bentham. From a rough calculation the number of valid species of *Eucalyptus* will not be fewer than 150; some generally dispersed, though the western species are mostly different from the eastern, and many of them bear more conspicuous flowers than the eastern. Others are very rare and near extinction, notably the very large-flowered, shrubby *E. macrocarpa*. It is to be hoped that Mr. Maiden's health and official duties will permit him to bring this valuable monograph to a relatively early conclusion, as it is only in the complete form that it can be fully useful.

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NOTES.

WE are informed by Dr. H. Mohn that he has resigned the professorship of meteorology in the University of Christiania and the directorship of the Meteorological Institute of Norway. Mr. Aksel S. Steen has been appointed to succeed him in these positions.

At the time of going to press with our issue of last week, the race by Mr. H. G. Hawker in an all-British waterplane for the 5000l. prize offered by *The Daily Mail* was in progress. The distance to be covered was 1540 miles, and of this 1043 had been accomplished on Wednesday when, according to the aviator, his foot slipping off the rudder bar, he lost control of the machine, which fell into the water of Lough Shinny, Ireland, and was wrecked. Mr. Hawker and his companion, Mr. Kauper, were rescued, the first-named uninjured, but the latter with a broken arm and other injuries. Although the task set him to accomplish was not fulfilled, the aviator must be congratulated upon having made a very satisfactory series of flights. The machine, fitted with a Green engine, was built by the Sopwith Aviation Company, and was a biplane with a span between the wing tips of 50 ft., and a length of 31 ft. 6 in. It had two main floats, with single hydroplane step, each weighing 170 lb., and also a small torpedo float under the tail. The total weight of the machine and passengers was estimated at 2400 lb.

THE next International Conference on Cancer (the fourth) is to be held at Copenhagen in 1916.

ACCORDING to the *New York Medical Journal*, an International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation will take place in New York in December next. It will include exhibits devoted to safety, health, sanitation, the prevention of accidents, the welfare of the public and the individual, and the advancement of the science of industry. Exhibits from foreign countries will, by a special Act of Congress, be admitted free of duty.

A REPORT from Vienna states that a ship has been purchased for an Austrian expedition to the South Polar regions, and that funds are being collected in