

heath (*Erica azorica*), and a splendid fern (*Dicksonia culcita*), which almost forms a tree, and which has a beautiful golden brown silky substance covering its young shoots, which is gathered and used for stuffing cushions. Several tree ferns have a similar substance developed on them. The moor looked very like a Scotch moor, and stretched away far over the flat hill tops.

There are 40 flowering plants found in the Azores, which grow nowhere else in the world; *Erica azorica*, the heath, is one of them. The rest of the plants are either South European, or belong to the Atlantic flora, a name given to a series of plants which grow on the Azores, Canaries, and Madeira, and nowhere else. Of these Atlantic plants 36 are found in the Azores.* Examples of them are the laurel (*Laurus canariensis*) and the juniper (*Juniperus brevifolia*). One little plant, a Campanula (*C. Vidalii*), is found only on one small rock on the east coast of Flores (one of the Azores), and nowhere else in the world. Nearly all the shrubs and trees of the Atlantic group of islands are evergreens.

We crossed a stretch of the plateau, and suddenly looked down on the other side of it into an immense deep, nearly circular crater, beautifully green. Its undulating bottom was dotted over with white houses amongst gardens and corn-fields, and in the distance was seen a small column of steam hovering over the hot springs. We drove down a steep incline for at least a couple of miles, and at least reached the village of Furnas. The road hence to the hot springs led across a small stream fed by them, deeply stained red, and smelling strongly of sulphuretted hydrogen. Thence the path went up a little valley, cut out in the low ridge of very fine light whitish ashes which separates the main Furnas valley from that part of it in which the Furnas lake is situate. It is a beautiful tiny glen, with dark evergreen foliage on its steep banks, and on the swamp borders of its narrow bed were masses of the brilliant green leaves of the eatable Arum (*Caladium esculentum*), one of the staple foods of the Polynesians, their "taro." The taro is cultivated all over the islands, but thrives here especially in the warm mineral water.

The Furnas lake is about three miles in circumference. There are two groups of boiling springs, the one at the margin of the lake, the other close to the town of Furnas.

The boiling springs near the lake are scattered over an area of about 40 yards square, covered with a greyish clayey deposit; a geyser or hot-spring formation, being composed of

* A. Grisebach, "Die Vegetation der Erde." Leipzig, 1872, 2ter Bd. s. 503.