Bermudas, and two on the western coast of Tropical Africa. Two St Helena endemic plants (see Part II., p. 34) are recorded from Ascension, but there are no specimens in the London Herbaria corroborating this, and it is almost certain that there was some mistake.

St Helena.—In common with that of Juan Fernandez and some other islands, the endemic element of the flora of St Helena includes a considerable proportion of arboreous Compositæ, the origin of which seems to be more remote and uncertain than that of the rest. We have entered at some length into the distribution of arboreous Compositæ generally, without, however, arriving at any even probable solution of the problem of how they reached these islands. Unlike the remainder of the element, the arboreous Compositæ of St Helena and Juan Fernandez are, to say the least, not more closely allied to the Compositæ of the nearest continents than they are of some more distant regions. The St Helena Compositæ, for example, exhibit quite as close a relationship to certain South American and Australian genera as they do to African; and the Juan Fernandez Compositæ exhibit no less distinct affinities. In Chili the characteristic and prevailing tribe of Compositæ is the Mutisiaceæ, which form, according to Bentham, nearly a third of the whole number; yet this tribe is not represented in Juan Fernandez; but what is more singular, the only Mutisiaceous genus in the Pacific islands is the very rare, monotypic, endemic, arboreous *Hesperomannia* in the distant Sandwich Islands. On the other hand, the remarkable Cichoriaceous Juan Fernandez genus *Dendroseris* has no near relative in Chili, where the tribe is sparsely represented. With regard to the very distinct Tahitian genus *Fitchia*, Sir Joseph Hooker acquiesces in the propriety of placing it in the Helianthoideæ rather than the Cichoriaceæ, in spite of its ligulate flowers. The occurrence of arboreous Compositæ in so many remote oceanic islands, coupled with the distribution of the genera to which they bear the greatest affinity, seems to indicate that they are the remains of very ancient types. We have not discussed the probabilities of differentiation on the spot, because, even assuming that to have happened, the difficulties connected with the great isolation of the insular types and their nearest continental affinities have still to be met. The question by what means the ancestors of these Compositæ were conveyed to the islands—and unless a former continental connection be supposed, conveyance from a continent seems the inevitable conclusion—can only be conjecturally answered. Most of the Compositæ are provided with exceptionally favourable means of dispersion in their light pappose achenes, though perhaps not for conveyance over immense expanses of the ocean; but we have yet much to learn on this point. Wind seems at first the most probable agent; but an uninterrupted current of air necessary for the purpose is hardly imaginable; and then, it might be asked, why has the agency, whatever it was, ceased acting? and why have its operations been limited to the conveyance of seeds to the islands? why not from the islands as well?