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## BOOK-NOTES, NEWS, &amp;c.

PROFESSOR DARBISHIRE'S account of Antarctic Lichens (*Lichens of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition*, Stockholm, 1912) is full of interest, both on account of the large number of species recorded by him that have found a lodging on that inhospitable continent and of the questions of distribution, which he has discussed with much care. As the author remarks, "there is apparently no limit to the adverse conditions of cold and exposure which lichens can bear"; it is only necessary that they should remain for a longer or shorter period without snow. They are able to persist by reason of their power to dry up without thereby being killed; an important factor in their distribution and the only check to their advance over the rocks is the covering of perpetual snow. Up to the present time the most southerly point at which any plant has been found is 78° south latitude and 162° east longitude, where the lichen *Lecanora subfusca* was collected by members of Scott's Antarctic Expedition of 1901-1904 at a height of 5000 ft. The distribution of these plants is remarkable. As was to be expected, there is great similarity between the lichens of New Zealand and Subantarctic America and those of the Antarctic Continent, but practically half of the Antarctic plants are common also to the far-away Arctic regions. This accords well with other accounts of lichen distribution, certain identical species occurring on high altitudes over the whole planet, an argument for the great age and fixity of these cosmopolitan plants. Professor Darbishire has divided the territory of the expedition into three districts: Subantarctic America, South Georgia, and the Antarctic. In these, 86 genera of lichens are represented, with 366 species in the first district; 55 in the second, and in the Antarctic 106, by far the largest number everywhere being crustaceous rock-forms. The new species are illustrated by photographs.—A. L. S.

INTELLIGENCE has reached us of the death of EDWARD HORACE SWETE, M.D., D.P.H., in his eighty-sixth year. Dr. Swete appears to have passed through his medical curriculum at Bristol, and he became the first Lecturer on Botany in the Bristol Medical School on its institution. At the age of twenty-seven he published the *Flora Bristolensis*, which came out in 1854. This was a careful compilation, with excellent introductory matter, and mentioned about eight hundred and ten species as growing within a circle of five miles' radius. Providing the first comprehensive account of the plants known in the vicinity of Bristol, the book had considerable local interest, and so continued for many years until work on modern lines was undertaken by another generation of botanists. It is a curious fact that Dr. Swete's pursuit of botany apparently ended with the issue of his *Flora*. No further note on the subject is known to have been penned by this author. He left the city, practised for a long period at Worcester, and afterwards at Weston-super-Mare; filled many public offices, and then lived in retirement in Wiltshire and