

from the last four or five sun-spot cycles which have actually varied from seven years to 14 years, "the data at present available are insufficient to establish satisfactorily" "the precise duration" of extended sun-spot periodicity, and hence Mr. Biggs's argument against the supposed influence of Jupiter, based upon the small differences of the mean of sun-spot periodicity as compared with the period of Jupiter, is not of much force, although in other respects his argument is well sustained and of considerable value.

Although, with Mr. R. H. Scott, I am fully convinced that as yet "it can scarcely be said that the close relation between solar and terrestrial phenomena is capable of accurate demonstration," still, with Tyndall, I am impressed with the feeling that "these guesses and conjectures are by no means leaps in the dark, for knowledge once gained casts a faint light beyond its own immediate boundaries. There is no discovery so limited as not to illuminate something beyond itself." (Scientific Materialism, p. 77.)

DEAL ISLAND.

The following census of the flora of Deal Island, in Kent's Group, was laid on the table by Mr. Justice Dobson, who had enlisted the services of the Superintendent of the Light-house on the Island, Mr. Johnstone, to collect and send him specimens of all plants growing there. These were forwarded to Sir F. Von Mueller, who prepared the census. One plant, an orchid, "*Pterostylis vittata*," is new to Tasmania, but is common to the Continent of Australia:—

- Clematis microphylla*, De Candolle.
- Bursaria spinosa*, Cavandolle.
- Comesperma volubile*, Labillardiere.
- Geranium pilosum*, Forster.
- Zieria Smithii*, Andrews.
- Correa speciosa*, Andrews.
- Beyera opava*, F. V. Mueller.
- Phyllanthus Gunnii*, J. Hooker.
- Casuarina distyla*, Vent.
- Tetragonia implexicoma*, J. Hooker.
- Mesembrianthemum aequilaterale*, Haworth.
- Stackhousia linarifolia*, Cunningham.
- Pomaderris apetala*, Labillardiere.
- Pultenæa daphnoides*, Smith.
- Goodia latifolia*, Salisbury.

- Swainsona lessertifolia, De Candolle.
 Acacia longifolia, Willdenow.
 var mucronata et var Sophorae.
 Acacia verticillata, Willdenow.
 Acæna sanginsorbæ, Vahl.
 Calycothrix tetragona, Labillardiere.
 Leptospermum scoparium, Forster.
 lævigatum, F. V. Mueller.
 Eucalyptus obliqua, L'Hert.
 Melaleuca ericifolia, Smith.
 Kunzea corifolia, Reichenbach:
 Pimelia linifolia, Smith.
 Banksia marginata, Canamilles.
 Aster argophyllus, Labillardiere.
 „ stellulatus „
 Helichrysum ferrugineum, Less.
 „ cinereum, F. V. Mueller.
 „ apiculatum, De Candolle.
 Senecio lautus, Forster.
 Styphelia Richei, Labillardiere.
 „ oxycedrus, „
 Epacris impressa, „
 Candollea oerruloto, „
 Goodenia ovata, Smith.
 Alyxia buxifolia, R. Brown.
 Myoporum insulare, „
 Callitris cupressiformis, Butomat.
 Caladenia latifolia, R. Brown.
 Pterostylis vittata, Lindley.
 Cyrtostylis reniformis, R. Brown.
 Corysanthes pruinosa, Cunningham.
 Dianella revoluta, R. Brown.
 Typha agustifolia, Limme.
 Juncus pallidus, R. Brown.
 Luzula campestris, Candolle.
 Lepidosperma gladiatum, Labillardiere.
 Cladium trifidum, F. V. Mueller.
 Festuca litoralis, Labillardiere.
 Spinifex hirsutus, „
 Polypodium pustulatum, Forster.
 Asplenium marinum, Linne.
 Pteris falcata, R. Brown.
 „ aquilina, Linne.
 Brachycome diversifolia, Fischer and Meyer.
 var Maritima, Beath.