

which we can walk for miles without getting tired. Moreover, our desert is by no means a perfect desert like the Sahara, devoid of vegetation.

In February, after the winter rain, green herbs and bushes sprout in the hollows, ravines, and valleys, and the flora are at their finest in March and April. After this the sun becomes too hot for them, and in the summer only the deeper-rooted trees and shrubs remain. The desert thorn is beloved by camels; the zygophyllums are very common and always succulent, but they are too salt except for the hungriest camels. The bitter colocynth and senna are used by the Bedouins. The desert flora are by no means rich, but a hundred species can be collected by diligent amateurs, and the number of possible species is six hundred. Desert plants cannot be cultivated in gardens; but, on the other hand, those species that have found their way from civilized spots into the wilds, seem to thrive untended in the desert. Rabbits, hares, foxes, jerboas, and lizards, all desert-coloured like the camel, are the animals one meets with most often. In the neighbourhood of any old necropolis, we find bits of granite and other monuments which have now disappeared; relics of the flint age may be found by careful searching, and many geological remains, including numerous fragments of petrified wood.