

resembles a small monkey, and is elsewhere found only in Africa, and there chiefly in Madagascar.

Many varieties of oxen, deer, antelopes, and sheep, occur in this province, and some of the most useful animals of draught are the Indian buffaloes and humped cattle. The region is also very rich in birds and reptiles, possessing, among many varieties of snakes, the dreaded cobra.

The Ethiopian Province.—Arabia, which is the only part of Asia that falls within this area, has a fauna which resembles that of the Sahara, and is characterized by such large animals as the lion, the one-humped camel, and many kinds of antelopes.

The Australian Province.—The division between this province and the Oriental was first determined by the naturalist Wallace, who considered it should be drawn between the Isles of Bali and Lombok, east of Java, and between Borneo and Celebes further north. Since then some zoologists, as Sclater, have shifted this line to the east of Celebes. As a matter of fact, the fauna along the border belt is naturally somewhat mixed, and those mammals which are most typical of the Australian province nowhere occur on the islands geographically included in Asia.

POPULATION.

The distribution of population is conditioned by the following circumstances :

1. **Climate.**—A comparison between the map on p. 31, showing the density of population, and that on p. 23, giving the annual rainfall, will indicate how closely the former reflects the influence of the latter. About eleven-twelfths of the total population of the continent is concentrated in the Monsoon area, which enjoys not only a good rainfall, but also high summer temperatures. Both the cold deserts of the north and the dry deserts of the interior are only sparsely populated, and mainly by nomadic tribes. Some regions of inadequate rainfall can, however, be rendered habitable by means of irrigation ; and this accounts for the number of towns in Mesopotamia, East and West Turkistan, and Persia. In these parts population could be increased by improved irrigation works ; but still a limit is fixed to the possible density of population by the limited supply of water available for irrigation.

2. **Relief of the Land.**—This affects the population directly, as rendering some parts less accessible than others, and indirectly, as