

after several days all the soft parts of the insect are digested and the trap is set again.

What is the difference between this mode of catching insects and that of the *Drosera* described in last number of the REVIEW and pictured here? Our readers who have been observing the *Drosera* during the past two months will readily answer this question.



Those readers of the REVIEW who are in or near St. John may examine the Venus' fly-trap by calling at the Girl's High School, where the specimen described above is to be seen. The plant is rare and

local, being found only in the sandy bogs of eastern North Carolina and the adjacent bogs of South Carolina.

SOME PARASITIC PLANTS.

Has your attention ever been turned to parasitic plants—namely, those which attach themselves to a *host-plant*, receiving support and abstracting nourishment therefrom? Animal parasites are so abundant and their ravages so well known, that we are accustomed to overlook the plant parasites. But these are perhaps just as numerous and as varied. Thackeray's famous couplet:

“Big fleas have little fleas to bite 'em
And so *ad infinitum*,”

will apply in general to plants equally as well. Look at the blade of grass at your feet, the strawberry leaf, or any other leaf that wears a sickly look. Pick it up and examine its under side. You will find there round or oval yellowish spots. Probably at this season of the year on most of the *host-plants* the parasites of this kind have completed their life history—have lived for a season on the generosity of their *host-plant*, perfected their spores, and have left on the leaf an unsightly blotch to mark their ravages. Seen earlier in the season some of these leaves on the under side would bear cup-like excrescences, in which the spores are developing. Again, every old tree, wall, or fence, is covered with lichens which are parasitic. The spots on the bark of fruit trees are parasites. Bacteria are microscopic parasites which multiply with extraordinary rapidity, at the expense of their hosts. Very often these hosts are the blood and tissue of animals, and many contagious diseases are ascribed to the presence of bacteria in the blood.

Let us consider one or two parasites found among the higher plants; you will recognize them on account

of their curious appearance; most of them are destitute of green.

The “Indian Pipe” or Ghost Flower (*monotropa uniflora*) is pure white throughout, blossoming in late summer in rich woods. It is a parasite, or better, a saprophyte, that is, it grows on decaying vegetable matter. Dig up the plant and you will see that the waxy-white stem and flower is elaborated from dead vegetable matter clustered around the fibrous roots.

If there are any beech trees growing in your vicinity, look along the ground in early autumn near their base, and you will find a much branched brownish plant. Dig down and you will find out another secret about parasites—that this one grows on the roots of the beech, hence called “beech-drops” (*Epiphegus Virginica*).

Another curious plant to be seen in September, with its leafless golden-yellow stems, twining around various plants, is the “Dodder” (*Cuscuta Gronovii*.) You can tell that it has contracted bad (parasitic) habits because it has lost its green chlorophyll, which is the badge of all hardworking plants who get their living in an honest way. Now this plant began life in a seemingly honest way. It sprang from a seed. But mark this—its seed did not begin to germinate until a month or six weeks after the seeds around it had begun to grow. When the Dodder does begin to grow, it sends up a shoot very rapidly. This shoot seems to pause and look round. If there is a growing stem near, the thread-like shoot twines round it several times, cuts loose from, and spurns the earth which gave it birth, and clings with its suckers to its foster-plant, which henceforth has to provide nourishment for itself, and its *fidus Achates*. How like some members of the human family.

I learned, by practical experience, that two factors go to the formation of a teacher. In regard to knowledge, he must, of course, be master of his work. But knowledge is not all. There may be knowledge without power—the ability to inform without the ability to stimulate. Both go together in the true teacher. A power of character must underlie and enforce the work of the intellect. There are men who can so rouse and energize their pupils, so call forth their strength and the pleasure of its exercise, as to make the hardest work agreeable. Without this power, it is questionable whether the teacher can ever really enjoy his vocation; with it, I do not know a higher, nobler, more blessed calling than that of the man who, scorning the “cramming” so prevalent in our day, converts the knowledge he imparts into a lever, to lift, exercise and strengthen the growing minds committed to his care.—Prof. Tyndall in *The Forum*.