

poisonous are the compound flowers as the Dandelion and Boneset (*Eupatorium*); such as have labiate corollas, with seeds lying naked in the calyx, are seldom or never poisonous, the mint and thyme are examples of such plants."

Plants containing mucilaginous matter are, as a rule wholesome, and in British Columbia the Indians eat almost any bulbous root, making regular annual trips to districts where certain liliaceous plants abound. Amongst those roots which they collect in this way are the camass (*Camassia esculenta*) *Lilium Columbianum*, *Fritillaria*, the small bulbs of *Calypso borealis* and, as Professor Macoun tells me, the bulbs of nearly all bulbous-rooted plants, which they designate by the general name of *muck-a-muck*. Another article of food to which they are very partial is the inner bark of young trees of *Pinus Murrayana*.

With regard to the poisonous properties of the parsley family referred to above, Dr. Trimen says, "The properties of the *Umbelliferae* are of three principle and remarkably different kinds. In one section a watery and acrid matter is present; in a second a milky gum-resinous secretion; and in a third, an aromatic and oily one. When the first of these predominates, they are poisonous; the second in excess converts them into stimulants; and the third renders them carminative and serviceable as pleasant condiments. If both the acrid and gum-resinous secretions be absent they are often useful articles of food, as happens with the sweet roots of the carrot and the parsnip, and the foliage of the samphire, fennel, chervil, parsley and celery."

Before closing I should like to say a few words concerning the Botanic Garden and Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm. I have there in my charge a tract of 65 acres of rolling land admirably suited to the purposes of a Botanic Garden. The higher portion is virtually a plateau with a wide bottom running round three sides of it and with banks sloping down to the bottom land. This variety of aspect is very convenient for the purposes to which it has been assigned. The soil is not particularly good but will improve with treatment. The different natural orders and families of plants will be represented by groups, many of which have been already located. There are at the present time about 400 species of trees and shrubs planted out, and of most of these there are two specimens—all are labelled and a record has been