

The fresh juice of this plant is powerfully irritant, producing violent itching, redness, and great tumefaction of the affected parts, particularly the face and those portions of the body where the skin is most delicate.

This swelling is followed by vesications, heat, pain, and symptomatic fever, which continues for two, three, or four days—the symptoms then subside, the blistered parts being covered with a crust.

These effects usually make their appearance in four or five hours, and though very distressing, are rarely fatal.

The treatment required is strictly antiphlogistic—viz., rest, low diet, aperients, with cold applications, such as the sugar of lead wash, &c.

It is, however, only in certain constitutions, that these phenomena are produced; for in the majority, I believe, it exerts no influence whatever; the leaves having been rubbed, chewed, and swallowed without injury.

The poisonous property resides in a yellowish milky juice, which exudes from the wounded extremities of the plant, and when applied to linen, forms an indelible black stain, which neither washing nor chemical agents will remove. (Here the lecturer illustrated the effects by reference to several cases.)

3rd. *Rhus Vernix*.—Poison Sumach. This plant belongs to the same family, and produces, when applied to the skin, the same symptoms as those which I have just described.

It is even said that, in susceptible constitutions, the near approach to this tree is sufficient to produce its effects.

4th and 5th. *Cicuta Maculata*.—American Hemlock. *Cicuta Bulbifera*.—Bulbiferous Cima.

6th. *Oethusa Cynapium*.—Fools Parsley.

These three plants nearly resemble one another; they belong to the Class Pentandria, Order Digynia, and the Nat. Family Umbellata; and are to be found in wet meadows, ditches and ponds.

The root of the *Cicuta Maculata* is composed of a number of large oblong, fleshy tubers, diverging from the base of the stem, and frequently being found of the size and length of a finger. The root is perennial, and has a strong, penetrating smell and taste. In various parts of the bark it contains distinct cells or cavities, which are filled with a yellowish resinous juice.

The plant is from 3 to 6 feet high. Its stem is smooth, branched at top, hollow, jointed, striated, and commonly of a purple colour, except when the plant grows in the shade, in which case it is green. The leaves are compound, the leaflets oblong, or cuneate, sinuate. The flowers grow in umbels, are white, consisting of 5 petals, which are obovate, with inflexed points.

These plants, like their congeners of Europe, the *Conium Maculatum* and *Cicuta Virosa*, are violent poisons, and they all produce nearly the same train of symptoms—viz., vertigo, obscurity of vision, pain in the head, vacillating walk, dryness of the throat, ardent thirst, vomiting of greenish matter, irregular respiration, coldness of the extremities, lethargy or delirium, epilepsy, especially in children, which frequently terminates in death.

The *Cicuta Virosa* of Europe is stated by Dr. Churchill to be by far the most poisonous plant of Great Britain; and Doctor Bigelow, (of Boston,) in speaking of the *Cicuta Maculata*, says, 'This is probably the most dangerous of all our poisonous vegetables, and various instances of speedy death have taken place in children who have unwarily eaten the root.'

For particulars see Vol. I., American Medical Botany.

7th, 8th, 9th & 10th. *Euphorbia Helioscopia*.—Sun Spurge.

" *Polygonifolia*.—Knot-grass Spurge.

" *Maculata*.—Spotted Spurge.

" *Hypericifolia*.—Oval-leaved Spurge.

The numerous species of *Euphorbia* which are found in various parts of the world, are all eminently acrid, and belong to the class Dodecandria, Order Trigynia, and Natural Family *Euphorbia*.

The species above enumerated are amongst our commonest weeds in cultivated grounds, road sides, and on the sand at the Island. In their action they are powerfully irritant, and all the effects on the body are subordinate to that action.

The milky juice which exudes when any part of the plant is broken, produces, in children, when applied to the skin, an eruption of vesicles, containing at first transparent lymph, which afterwards becomes opaque, and ultimately forms a dry crust or scab.

I have often been sent for to see children who had been playing with this common weed, and whose anxious mothers imagined were labouring under chicken pox; and so nearly do the two states appear, that I have been in doubt for a time whether to ascribe it to the poison or the disease.

In any of the cases which I have seen, there has not been any symptomatic fever, nor has the eruption appeared on any part of the body usually covered by clothes—but on the hands and arms, face and neck, or legs.

I am not aware of any ill effects having followed the handling of these native plants; but the East and West Indian, and African varieties produce violent inflammation, and even ulceration of the skin, or any part of the body with which it comes in contact.

11th. *Arum Triphyllum*.—Dragon Root or Indian Turnip. This singular and elegant plant is a native of our swamps and wet woods.

The root is round and flattened, its upper part tunicated like an onion, its lower and larger portion tuberos and fleshy, giving off numerous long white radicals in a circle from its upper edge. On the under side it is covered with a dark, loose, and wrinkled skin.

The leaves are on long footstalks, and composed of three oval acuminate leaflets.

The flower is a large, ovate, acuminate spathe, convoluted into a tube at the bottom, but flattened and bent over at the top like a hood. Its colour is various; in some it is green, in others dark purple, or almost black, mostly variegated, with pale greenish stripes on a dark ground.

It belongs to the class Monœcia, Order Polyandria. Every part of the arum, and especially the root, is violently acrid, and almost caustic; applied to the tongue, or to any secreting surface, it produces an effect like Cayenne Pepper, but far more powerful, so much so, as to leave a permanent soreness of many hours' continuance.

This acrimony is of a volatile nature, and disappears upon boiling or drying.

It consists of an inflammable substance, volatile at low temperatures, and not combining with water or alcohol.

12th. *Calla Palustris*.—Northern Calla.

This handsome aquatic plant belongs to the same class and order as the foregoing, and is found in the swamps near the Humber.

The root is as large as the finger, jointed, and creeping. The leaves are smooth, entire, heart-shaped, with an involute point.

The flower or spathe, oval, spreading, recurved, clasping at the base, and ending in a cylindrical point.