

question may be answered by saying that mushrooms and road stools are the same. There is no sharp line of distinction, and no simple test which can be applied to distinguish the edible from poisonous forms. The so-called peeling test is useless, as one of our most poisonous forms peels as readily as the cultivated mushroom. The blackening of silver was at one time supposed to show that mushrooms were poisonous, but this test is of no value, as the blackening of silver only indicates the presence of sulphur or its compounds, and has no relation to poisons present. Some people say, "Collect only those mushrooms which grow in fields and pastures." Unfortunately, our deadly poisonous mushrooms, although generally growing in the woods, sometimes grow in lawns and pastures. On the other hand, if one does not gather mushrooms in the woods and parks many of the very best kinds will be missed.

The only way to be sure that the mushrooms gathered are wholesome is to learn to know the mushrooms from their characters the same as we learn to know other plants. When one goes out to gather berries he must distinguish between nightshade and strawberries or between elderberries and spikenard. It comes to know the edible ones and to recognize those that are not edible, and learn the latter alone. In the same manner one must learn to distinguish the mushrooms. This may be done by going out with someone who is familiar with mushrooms and has gathered them for use many times, or one may learn to know mushrooms by gathering the different kinds and carefully comparing them with descriptions and pictures. This method is, perhaps, the one which many will have to use.

In order that more people may learn to know some mushrooms and thus utilize part of the food that is being wasted, the most common edible kinds and also the poisonous ones that are likely to be found in Ontario are described and photographs of them are shown.

There is still another way to learn mushrooms. The Department of Botany of this College will be very glad to identify any mushrooms sent in for this purpose. In order to have them identified they should be prepared as follows:

Carefully dig up the mushrooms so that all the fruit body, including the very base of the stalk, is present. Wrap in dry paper, taking care not to crush the specimens. A note should be attached which describes where the plants grew, whether in fields, or woods, or on the road-side. Whether it grows in the ground or on wood, and finally the color of the plant in fresh condition. They should then be enclosed in a strong cardboard box or tin can to protect them from being crushed, and addressed to

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