

stored-up material in its root to furnish energy for seeding in the second year. It seems to have been grown thus in England since about 1550 A.D. Many wild plants resemble the carrot in appearance, but its flower is distinguished by the red flower in the centre of an umbel of white ones. The root is thin, and, strangely enough, it has poisonous qualities.

The radish is related to, and resembles the turnip. There are several forms of wild radish, from one of which our edible one may have descended. Like parsnips, the radish expands to fit the soil, growing longest and best in very light mould. Turnips grow wild in all parts of Europe, but man has made a great difference to the size and quality of the root. The rape is practically a turnip; in one case the plant is grown for the sake of its root storehouse, in the other for its seed, from which comes colza oil. By his selection man has improved the root or the seed of the same wild plant.

Beet roots were prized of old for the sake of the leaf more than the root, the latter being used medicinally. Some beets are still valued for the leaf only, but the world is most indebted to this root for its concentrated storage of sugar.

Roots in Medicine.—Man uses the roots of plants not only for eating, but various roots are also very useful for medicines and in beverages. Ginger is the root of a

plant in the East and West Indies, while chicory—which we mix with coffee—is the carrot-like root of a plant that has been roasted and ground. The roots of the dandelion are used in medicine, and there are many other wildlings which are of use to the druggists in their roots. The rhizomes of blue and white flags, when dried, produce orris root, while arrowroot is manufactured from the roots of several species of the maranta. The Indians used to cure the wounds of poisoned arrows by arrowroot, hence the name. Turkey rhubarb and liquorice are other root medicines.—*In the Teacher's Book of Nature Study, Vol. III.*

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At a country school entertainment, the boy on the platform began to recite "Lend me your Ears." "Huh!" sneered one of the seated women, "that's Sairy Jane Barton's boy all right. He wouldn't be his mother's son if he didn't want to borrow something."

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