

ARROWROOT.—Mr. Greenish, (*Pharm. Jour. & Trans.*), traces the origin of the term "arrowroot" to a native Indian word "araruta" signifying mealy root. It was the practice of the Indians to eat the root without other preparation than roasting it in hot ashes; it therefore appears natural that a native would apply just such a word to a root that he found to yield so large a proportion of a farinaceous substance as the maranta or the cassava. The author takes exception to the general use of the term arrowroot, and thinks that in published official scientific documents the term starch should be employed in a generic sense to designate the organized structure observed, and its source added to distinguish the particular kind, as the starch of a maranta, or the starch of a manihot. Mr. Greenish reports having examined a mixture, sold as arrowroot, which contained a considerable portion of cassava starch. Mr. H. W. Jones notes similar cases of adulteration and says that, during the last few months, considerable quantities of this article have been put upon the market. A case of substitution is reported in the Danish journals, in which the starch from *Tacca pennatifida* altogether replaced that of maranta. The appearance of this sample was perfect, but the microscope at once revealed the fraud.

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COMPOSITION OF COLORLESS TINCTURE OF IODINE.—Mr. N. H. Darling (*Pharm. Jour. & Trans.*), expresses the opinion that the efficacy of decolorized tincture of iodine must be for the most part attributed to the iodoform it contains. It is assumed that this substance is present in considerable quantity, and the author says that when preparing the tincture, by means of ammonia, he noticed the formation of spangles of what he subsequently determined to be iodoform. This view of the subject does not coincide with that of Curtmann, who states the result of the reaction to be ammonium iodide of iodate, ethyl iodide, and an iodide of an ethyl substituted ammonia. According to Curtmann the best proportions for decolorization are iodine, ten drachms; rectified spirit, thirteen fluid ounces; strong solution of ammonia, three fluid ounces. Hager recommends the use of sodium hyposulphite, which is mixed with the iodine and some water and heated until colorless, when ammonia and alcohol are added. This solution is said to contain iodide of triethyl ammonium, which, in course of time, decomposes into ethyl iodide, sodium iodide, and triethylamine. Neither Curtmann nor Hager mention the formation of iodoform.

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NEW INSECTICIDE FOR HERBARIA.—Collections of dried plants are liable to be infested by various insects, which, if left alone, will