

AGARICACEAE OR GILL-BEARING MUSHROOMS.

It is not my intention to attempt a systematic and thorough discussion of this subject. I take it for granted that what is desired for the columns of the *HORTICULTURIST* is not a technical treatise that may interest students of mycology, but such a clear and concise description of the salient characteristics of a few of the more important species of this group as will enable the average reader to recognize them readily, and so enrich his fungus menu by one or more new acquisitions or to avoid at least the forbidden fruit that some have eaten to their cost. Judging from my own experience and that of others, I bespeak for every reader of the *HORTICULTURIST* an intensity of interest and pleasure every time that he identifies a new species, and places it for the first time upon his table, and partakes of it without harmful results. The subject of mycology is so fascinating, and the interest in it so easily awakened, that I venture the assertion that some who may read these articles will not be content with the few fragmentary thoughts that I may be able to give them, and will eagerly seek for more. To those unfamiliar with the subject it may be desirable to explain a

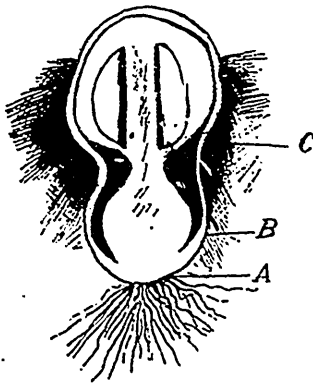


FIG. 1988. UNDEVELOPED AMANITA.

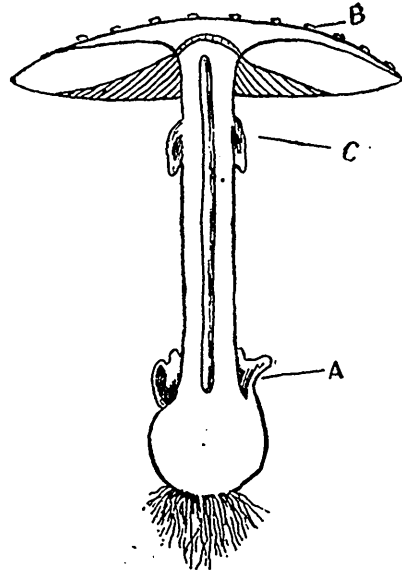


FIG. 1989. MATURED AMANITA (*McIlwaine*).

few terms used in describing the more important structural features of this group.

Fig. 1988 represents a cross section of a young and undeveloped amanita. The letter A points to the mycelium or thread-like vine, the true fungus from which the fruit or mushroom grows; B—the outer envelope or volva, by some styled the “universal veil,” completely enwrapping the whole plant; C—the inner or partial veil connecting the stem with the cap and enclosing the lamellae or gills.

Fig. 1989 represents a cross section of the same plant at maturity. During the period of growth the outer veil has been ruptured, and nothing remains of it but a cup or sheath at the base of the stem indicated by the letter A, and some shreds or fragments looking like scales or warts on the top of the cap; (B). The inner veil has also been torn from the cap and now appears as an annulus or ring about the stem; (C). The gills under-