

involucre. The involucrels are composed of from 5 to 6 short linear leaves. The fruit is appropriately likened by Torrey and Gray to Anise. The root consists of a cluster of large somewhat fusiform tubers not unlike those of *Aconitum Napellus*. The tuber in section shows a large white pith, surrounded by a well defined ring of a yellow or greenish hue, outside of which the tissue is paler, the outer skin brown. The whole tissue is soft and cellular, the cells being transparent, some containing minute regular starch granules, and large quantities of a green oily fluid are seen throughout the tissue. The part forming the dark ring or zone contains spiral vessels, which present the anomaly of being angular, somewhat like scalariform vessels, but the fibre is unrollable, and the apparent angularity depends merely upon the nice adjustment of the sides of the spiral vessels to the smaller cells with which it is surrounded.

The roots sent by Dr. Trousdale have been planted in the Kingston Botanic Garden.

It seems proper to allude to the allied species of *Cicuta*, vizt. *C. virosa*, which is best known in Europe, being an indigenous European plant. It does not occur in the United States, and is little known in British America beyond the record in Sir William Walker's 'Flora Boreali Americana,' vol. 1. page 259, vizt. 'Woody country of North America, between lat. 54° and 64° North.'—*Sir John Richardson and Mr. Drummond*.

There is still another North American species of this genus, viz: *Cicuta bulbifera*, which is a common Canadian plant, growing by the edges of creeks and in wet swamps. It is particularly abundant in the neighborhood of Kingston, as along the little Cataraqui Creek, and many other places. It is always profusely bulbiferous on the upper part of the stem.

G. L.

PHYSICAL DEPARTMENT.

ART. IX.—*Contributions to Meteorology for the year 1861, from observations taken at Isle-Jesus, Canada East.* By CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M. D. LL.D., Professor of Meteorology in the University of McGill College, Montreal.

The following observations are a continuation of the Annual Report of the results of the observations taken at the Observatory. The means are reduced from tri-daily observations taken at 6 a. m., 2 p. m. and 10 p. m. The whole of the observations are reduced to the usual standards, and the necessary corrections depending upon any peculiar construction of the instruments have been applied. It may be further stated, that the instruments are in the same position in which they have stood during a long series of years, and they are all subjected at short intervals of time, to certain manipulations and corrections, so as to secure, as far as possible, accuracy; many of them are self-registering and every means have been adopted to prevent either terrestrial, zenith or solar radiation on the bulbs of the thermometers; extra hours are set apart for observing any unusual phenomena, and a more particular attention has been directed to every sudden and great fall in the barometric column as indicating any unusual atmospheric wave, and also on the sudden fall of the thermome-