

still considered most useful in home pharmacy. Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) is much valued as the basis of an ointment used in various malignant diseases of the skin, and it is said to be a permanent cure for scrofula. The plant was held in high esteem in ancient times and was very popular as an eye remedy. Culpepper says the plant is called celandine from *χελιδόν*, the swallow, because "if you put out the eyes of young swallows, when they are in the nest, the old ones will recover their eyes again with this herb."¹ But Gerarde assures us such "things are vain and false; for Cornelius Celses, lib. 6, witnesseth, That when the sight of the eies of divers birds is put forth by some outward means, it will after a time be restored of it selfe, and soonest of all the sight of the swallow; whereupon (as the same author saith) the tale grew, how thorow an herb the dams restore that thing which healeth of it selfe."²

In Clarenceville, a salve made from the leaves of the chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*) is frequently used, though it is not, as in the past, considered "a remedie against all wearisomnesse."³ In the Townships, it is said that few people can grow the plant, for "while some can handle it, as soon as others touch it, it dies." This view is directly opposed to the old English proverb,

"Like a camomile bed,
The more it is trodden,
The more it will spread."⁴

Several species of *Aralia* are in great repute and probably do possess remedial properties. They are sought not only by the Canadian "simpler," but sarsaparilla is the chief ingredient of a popular patent medicine. Ginseng (*Aralia quinquefolia*), whose roots bear a supposed resemblance to the human body, was highly esteemed

¹ Culpepper's "Complete Herbal and English Physician enlarged."

^{2, 3} "The Herball or General Historie of Plants," by John Gerarde.

⁴ Dyer's Folk-Lore of Plants.