

the eye knows no butt, shooting on with stellar penetration into the unknown. In a small space there seems a vacuum, and nothing between you and the hedge opposite, or even across the valley, in a great space the void is filled, and the wind touches the sight like a thing tangible. The air becomes itself a cloud, and is coloured—recognized as a thing suspended, something real exists between you and the horizon."

The Poison Ivy

THIS brilliant but pernicious beauty has brought suffering to many who have inadvertently handled its foliage, and sometimes the danger has been considerable. The Poison Ivy, or Rhus Toxicodendron, to give it the botanical name, is a shrub native to Canada, and with others of the Rhus give splendour to the landscape in the fall, the leaves changing to hues of vivid crimson. Its use is deprecated in gardens, but it sometimes gets in, because those who purchase it are unaware that it is poisonous, a real menace to some constitutions.

The late Earl of Annesley, who was an enthusiastic lover of trees and shrubs, soon destroyed it when the illness of members of his family and some of his gardeners was traced to this splendid climber.

The writer has just been reading one of those interesting booklets, or bulletins as they are called, issued from time to time by the authorities of the Royal Gardens, Kew, England, and a note occurs on this Rhus from Dr. Franz Pfaff, of the Harvard Medical School, Boston. Dr. Pfaff says that the active principle of the Poison Ivy is an oil which he has named "Toxicodendrol." This can be found in all parts of both Rhus Toxicodendron (the true Poison Ivy) and Rhus Venenata. "Toxicodendrol" is not a volatile oil, but on the contrary is very stable.

One must endeavour to remove it as quickly as possible and prevent its spreading. This can be done by vigorously washing the affected and exposed parts with soap and water and a scrubbing brush; that is to say, by mechanically removing the oil. As the active principle is very soluble in alcohol, other processes may be used to remove the oil. The exposed parts may be washed repeatedly with fresh quantities of alcohol and a scrubbing brush. The poisonous oil may thus be removed in alcoholic solution. The washing must be done thoroughly when alcohol is used, as otherwise the alcohol might serve to distribute the oil more widely over the skin. The finger nails should be cut

short and also perfectly cleansed with the scrubbing brush. Oily preparations, or anything which dissolves the poisonous oil, if used, should be immediately removed, as they may only spread the poison.

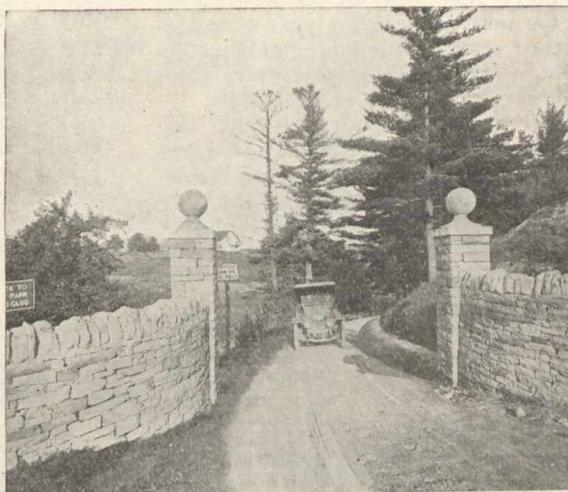
The treatment outlined cannot cure the inflamed parts, which must heal by the usual process of repair, but it does prevent the spreading of the inflammation, and may serve to remove the poison before it has time to produce its characteristic effects on the skin. The writer is acquainted with a burly, healthy, clean living teamster who suffered greatly from the Poison Ivy. He was working on a wooded mountain where the plant may be found. It is found sometimes with a vengeance. The now well-known Primrose (Primula obconica), and grown in the greenhouse, has much the same effect upon certain skins.

A Readable Book

"The Happy Garden," by Mary Ansell (Cassell & Co., Ltd., London and Toronto). This is a type of book that has had much vogue in England during recent years; it is not a gardening book in the true sense of the word, but a chat about all things in general that surround the home—pleasant reading for a summer day, a book to while away an idle hour, without gaining much information. It is a weak imitation of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," which is of rare brilliancy and charm, and therefore suffers sadly in comparison. The author has evidently only a superficial knowledge of flower life, but "The Happy Garden" has this value—it conveys an impression of a pretty English home set amongst trees, shrubs, and flowers.

The following description of the orchard is characteristic of the book, which is well illustrated and printed: "It were hard to tell whether the orchard is more beautiful in spring or autumn. When the blossoms come, eyes tuned to winter dullness drink their beauty ecstatically, and it is almost well that their life is short and they are so soon scattered; but there is rich comfort in watching the ripening, ruddy fruit, and, though it is almost the last glory of the pageant of the seasons, all that has gone before has so ripened appreciation that perhaps the greatest joy of all is the joy of harvest; it is the fulfilment of promise, a reality more beautiful than the dream: fulfilment, contentment, peace. And the tinge of melancholy in the autumn gives a new zest to the pleasure of the orchard, just as the eager nip in the air quickens the senses and sets the blood racing and the mind scheming of new activities and fresh triumphs in the coming year."

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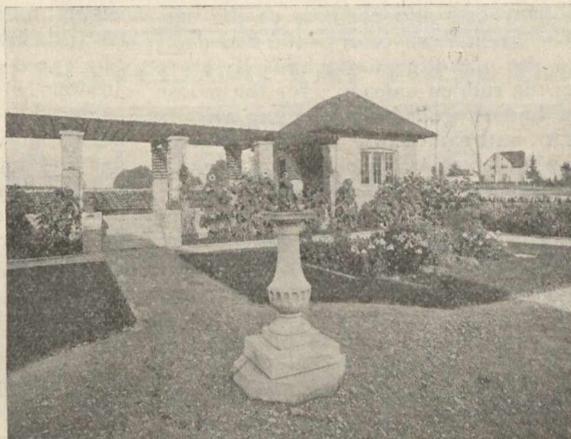
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