

nature has been detected by the keen senses of taste or smell. For this reason I can make no excuse for people, who are old enough to think, who allow themselves to be poisoned, and I do not believe any sensible person ever will.

I quite agree with my friend Professor Macoun who a few years ago, in speaking of the vast supplies of good wholesome food going to waste all round us every year in the shape of various fungi, touched on this subject and speaking of the small number of poisonous plants in any locality said: "I have no patience with the stupid people who allow themselves to starve to death in a country clothed with grass, plants, and trees, nearly all of which are capable of sustaining life." With regard to such plants as contain noxious principles there are a few general rules, which may be borne in mind by those who travel in the wilds and are liable to require such knowledge, and to which, without going into undue detail, it may not be amiss to refer here. Plants belonging to the same natural order, as a rule, contain similar constituents. There are large orders of plants every member of which makes wholesome food, notwithstanding the occasional presence of acrid principles; such we find in the cress family which may always be recognized by their cruciform flowers, made up of four separate petals. The same may be said of all the rose family which have the stamens standing on the calyx as we find in the rose and apple. All grasses as wheat and corn, and all plants bearing papilionaceous flowers as the bean, the pea, and clover, produce wholesome food for man and beast.

Mrs. Lincoln in her "Familiar Lectures on Botany" says "Such plants as have five stamens and *one pistil*, with a corolla of a dull livid colour, and a disagreeable smell, are usually poisonous; the thorn apple (*Stramonium*) and tobacco are examples. The umbelliferous plants, which grow in *wet* places, have usually a nauseous smell: such plants *are poisonous*, as the water hemlock. Umbelliferous plants which grow in dry places, usually have an aromatic smell and are not poisonous, as caraway and fennel. Plants with labiate corollas, and containing their seeds in capsules, are often poisonous, as the foxglove (*Digitalis*); also such as contain a *milky juice*, unless they are compound flowers. Such plants as have horned or hooded nectaries, as the columbine and monk's hood are mostly poisonous. Amongst plants which are seldom