

INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE TO MEDICINAL PLANTS.

The Pan-American Medical Congress, at its meeting held in the City of Mexico in November, 1896, took steps to institute a systematic study of the American Medicinal Flora, through the medium of a General Commission and of special Sub-Commissions, the latter to be organized in the several countries. The Sub-Commission for the United States has been formed, and consists of Dr. Valery Havard, U. S. A., Chairman; Mr. Frederick V. Coville, Botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, Curator of the Botanical Department of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago; Dr. Charles Mohr, State Botanist of Alabama; Dr. W. P. Wilson, Director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museums; and Prof. H. H. Rusby, of the New York College of Pharmacy. This Sub-Commission solicits information concerning the medicinal plants of the United States from every one in a position to accord it. The principal points of study are as follows:

1. Local names.
2. Local uses, together with historical facts.
3. Geographical distribution and degree of abundance in the wild state.
4. Is the plant collected for market and if so,
 - (a) At what season of the year?
 - (b) To how great an extent?
 - (c) How prepared for market?
 - (d) What is the effect of such collection upon the wild supply?
 - (e) What price does it bring?
 - (f) Is the industry profitable?
5. Is the plant, or has it ever been, cultivated, and, if so, give all information on the subject, particularly as to whether such supplies are of superior quality, and whether the industry has proved profitable.
6. If not cultivated, present facts concerning the life history of the plant, which might aid in determining methods of cultivation.
7. Is the drug subjected to substitution or adulteration? and, if so, give information as to the plants used for this purpose.