

form, but tapering to a point and doubly toothed along the edge. Rising from the main stem and in the centre of the three compound leaves is a stalk three inches long bearing inconspicuous greenish white flowers, appearing not unlike a small head of white clover.

This single flower stalk is an important point, for I have found some calling a plant of this family ginseng (*Aralia quinquefolia*) which had four flower stalks and belonged to an entirely different species, though of the same genus.

The root of a specimen in the College herbarium is quite fleshy, rather short (three inches) and from it arises the single stem already described. By means of the above descriptions, technical and popular, together with the accompanying cut the reader will readily identify the plant ginseng from other plants in the vicinity.



GINSENG (*Aralia quinquefolia*).

HISTORY OF GINSENG. The genus *Panax* was first applied to it, and not *Aralia*; this was, no doubt, on account of its being considered by the Chinese as a panacea for all diseases. The name of the plant, among both the Chinese and the North American Indians, means, in their language, the figure of a man, and was given to it from a fancied resemblance of the human figure. In fact, much of its virtue seems to depend upon its form. With us there is little faith in its medicinal power, but the Chinese have unbounded belief in it and hence are eager to secure it. The emperor of the Chinese at first monopolized the right of collecting the roots, and whole

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