

Every country possesses something peculiar to itself in its vegetable growth, and it may be that Newfoundland will yet afford plants new to science, or perhaps possessing valuable medicinal or other as yet undiscovered properties. No doubt, any person who could bring to light something of this nature would attain much honour in scientific circles. Of course I need scarcely say that many of our most valuable drugs, dyes, etc., are derived from plant life.

Another branch of Natural History which might well engage the attention of some of our ladies is Algology, the study and collection of our seaweeds. This country affords ample opportunity along its surf beaten and much indented sea coast, for the collection of these most interesting of nature's treasures, erroneously termed seaweeds. There are many beautiful specimens to be found on our beaches in summer time, and when properly prepared they can be arranged in most artistic displays. I remember once seeing in a friend's house, a plaque hanging on a wall, with a section of a flower basket attached thereto, in which were arranged several varieties of seaweed. It formed a very attractive wall ornament, and beneath were the beautiful lines of the Poet,

"Oh! call us not weeds, we are flowers of the sea,
For beautiful, bright and gay tinted are we,
Our blush is as deep as the rose of the bowers
Then call us not weeds, we are ocean's gay flowers.

Not nursed like the plants of a Summer's parterre
Whose gales are but sighs of an evening air.
Our exquisite, fragile and beautiful forms
Are nursed by the ocean and rocked by its storms."

Seaweeds so called, possess many useful and valuable properties especially for chemical and agricultural purposes. The common ordinary kelp found strewn around our shores, is the source from