

of tonic, stimulant, and comforting, which are accorded to it. The truly active and strong impression which it makes on the nervous system by its fragrant aroma, and on the stomach when taken internally, is rapidly and sympathetically transmitted to all the organs, the functions of which it more or less accelerates. Hence, when the system is lowered, vanilla facilitates digestion and nutrition, augments the cutaneous transpiration or the secretion of urine, and acts as a tonic in various other ways. It is recommended in cases of dyspepsia, melancholy, hypochondria, and chlorosis, where the digestive functions are sluggish or torpid."

In Guatemala the Indians of Vera Paz collect a good deal of vanilla growing wild in the woods along the banks of the river Polochic and in the forests to the north-west of Coban, and this orchid is also found growing on the coast of Suchitepequez.

In 1871 the number of hectares under culture with vanilla in Reunion was 593, and the produce 56,203 lbs., of the approximate value of 153,282*l.*, raised at the cost of little more than 5,100*l.*

The production in this island is shown by the following figures:—

				Hectares.				Produce Kilos.
1866	..	..	..	223	...	..	15,494	
1867	..	..	..	218	..	...	16,162	
1868	..	..	..	230	..	..	15,041	
1869	..	..	...	303	..	..	19,063	
1870	..	..	..	334	...	..	18,512	
1871	..	..	..	593	...	..	25,547	

The hectare is nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  English acres, and the kilo. a little more than 2lbs. avoirdupois.

The British consul at Reunion, in his report dated May 1, 1875, states "The great demand for this perfume latterly in the markets of Europe has brought large profits to the planters of it, and the plantations have multiplied on all sides to such a degree that the next crop will double that exported this year, which amounted to 20,854 kilos., and the quantity which will appear in the market towards the month of August next is calculated at about 40,000 kilos. Unless circumstances arise which are at present unforeseen, and also by reason of the newness of some of the plantations, the colony can produce in two or three years from 50 000 to 60,000 kilos. of vanilla. I learn that this cultivation is also extensively carried on in Madagascar and Mauritius, and it is feared by persons interested that this extended cultivation will create a supply too great for the demand, or, in other words that prices will go down."

Vanilla is cultivated more particularly by the small proprietors than by the great. Its produce assists a part of the population who are averse to work and the small extent of whose lands has not allowed them hitherto to think of attempting a cultivation like that of the sugar cane, maize, manioc, or coffee, which would