

civet, good apothecary, to sweeten my imagination." Whether the Jews in Bible times understood the nature and use of drugs as medicinal agents or not, they certainly understood the art of perfumery. We have ample evidence of their profuse employment of perfumes. They used them to their persons, their clothes, and their beds. Even as early as the time of the patriarch Isaac, before the Israelites went into Egypt, we have an instance of perfumery applied to the clothes. We are told that the old man said to Jacob, "Come near now and kiss me, my son;" and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of the field which the Lord hath blessed." The principal fragrant substances employed in perfumery by the Jews, were cassia, cinnamon, calamus, camphire, frankincense, lign aloe, myrrh, saffron, spikenard. These articles were used either dry, or their perfume extracted and embodied in the form of an ointment.

*Cassia* and *Cinnamon* are no doubt the barks of trees known by those names at the present day. Cinnamon is mentioned, as we have seen, by Moses, which is of importance as throwing considerable light on the fact that even in the earliest times the products of one country found their way by means of foreign trade into distant lands. Cinnamon was not grown nearer to Egypt than India and Ceylon, and the question arises how this product of the far East found its way thus early into the neighborhood of the Mediterranean? Dr. Kitto thought that this was effected by the Arabians.

*Calamus* is generally supposed to be the *Calamus aromaticus*, or sweet flag; but this is denied by some scholars, who refer it to the lemon-grass of India and Arabia.

*Camphire* is an incorrect rendering of the word *copher*. In both the places of its mention the marginal reading is "cypress." The substance really denoted is the *henna* plant, or *Lawsonia alba*. It was used as a dye for the nails, giving them a deep yellow or orange tinge, which was greatly admired.

*Frankincense*.—The epithet frank or free was applied to incense because of the freeness with which it gives out its odors and burns. It is not the article known as gum *thus*, but that known as *olibanum*, a gum produced by a tree known as *Boswellia serrata*, or *B. thurifera*. It was imported we learn from Jeremiah, from Arabia.

*Lign aloe* is the eagle wood of India, and has no connection with the drug known as aloes, the name being a corruption of the Arabic *allowat*. Of all perfumes this was most highly prized by Eastern nations; the Jews believed it grew in the garden of Eden.

*Myrrh* is mentioned in our English Bibles as a part of the present sent by Jacob to Joseph, and also as one of the spices which the Ishmaelite merchants were carrying into Egypt. The original word here is *Lot*; whereas the word which is rendered "myrrh" in every other part of Scripture is *mor*. The article called *lôt* was not