

the Eastern districts of the Cape Colony, whence large quantities are annually exported. The drug commonly used by the colonists, is prepared from the *Aloe plicatilis*, Miller, whose extract is a much milder purgative, and much resembles the Barbados aloes. It inhabits the mountainous range near the Paarl Drakenstein and Fransche Hoek. It is much to be regretted that the farmers do not take more trouble in purifying this valuable drug.

BARBADOS ALOES is obtained from *A. vulgaris*, Lamark, *A. barbadosensis*, Miller. It is met with in countries around the Mediterranean Sea, also the Canary Islands, on the sandy or rocky coast. Dr. Sibthorpe indentified this species with the *Axon* of Dioscorides; hence it is not improbable that *A. vulgaris* is simultaneously also of American origin, although it is cultivated in the Antilles, and furnishes from thence the main supply of Barbados aloes. In the East Indies this species is also seemingly only existing in a cultivated state. Haworth found the leaves of this and of *A. striata* softer and more succulent than those of any other aloes. It is said to be the only species with yellow flowers among those early known. It is also this species only which Professor Willkoem and Professor Parlatore record as truly wild in Spain and Italy. Barbados aloes is chiefly sent in gourds.

*Socotrine Aloes.*—*A. Socotrina*, Lamark, is indigenous to the hills of the island of Socotra. It is also cultivated in Barbados and elsewhere, thus yielding the Socotrine aloes. It is difficult to ascertain what is the precise produce of the island now. Our imports are so mixed up with the Indian aloes which comes from Bombay and through Egypt, and from the east coast of Africa, that it is scarcely possible in the official returns to separate Indian and Socotrine produce. The Barbados and the Cape aloes used to be separated in the official trade returns, and all the eastern classed as Socotrine. Within the last year or two the Board of Trade officials have not thought it worth while, however, to classify the supplies, and we now only know the gross quantity received.

THE EAST INDIAN OR HEPATIC ALOE, so called from its bright liver colour, is said to be the produce of *A. arabica*, Lam. Some quantity used to be shipped from Madras chiefly to Bengal and Australia. It comes here in casks or kegs. In India an inferior description of aloes is obtained from *A. indica*, Royle, and a better kind is procurable from *A. litoralis*, Koenig, which grows plentifully at Cape Comorin and the neighbourhood; it is readily distinguishable by the reddish colour of its leaves. The natives attach much value to the juice of the leaves, which they apply externally in cases of ophthalmia, and especially in what are commonly called country sore eyes. The mode of administering it is to wash the pulp of the leaves in cold water, and mix it up with a little burnt alum. In this state it is applied to the eyes, being previously wrapped in a piece of muslin cloth.