

THE GOOD CANADIAN ;

OR,

HOUSEHOLD PHYSICIAN.

Happy the man who by Nature's laws, through known effects can trace the cause.

TEA.

It is generally understood that there are two species of tea, viz:—black and green. Both are produced by the same plant, and the difference between the two results from peculiarities of manufacture. The shape of the tea leaf is slender and narrow, with the edges deeply serrated, and the end sharply pointed. The texture of the leaf is very delicate, its surface smooth and glossy; its color is a lively pale green. The leaves of some kinds of tea differ in size, but the shape is the same in all, for all the different kinds of China teas are the produce of one plant, and the difference between green and black tea depends in some part on the soil, climate, culture, age and mode of drying the leaves. The adulteration of tea by the admixture of blackthorn leaves and sloe leaves, may be detected by comparing the botanical characters of the different leaves. The sloe leaf and blackthorn leaf are more rounded and the points not so sharp; serratures on the edges not so deep, and the surface of the leaves are more uneven, the texture not so delicate, and the color is a dark olive green; these characters may be tested after the leaves have been soaked in water some hours. Let the women spread out the leaves when wet, which come from their grocers' stores, and be able to distinguish tea from sloe and blackthorn leaves by their forms, colors, flavors and scent. I may say that if there were no worse adulterations than these in teas there would not be much harm done, for in