

Of late years madness of-dogs has been more frequent; the *Swertia difformis*, recommended by Clayton, should be tried.\*

In the search of new medicines, spicy trees and balmy ever-greens are particularly inviting. The swamps of the low country abound in plants of aromatic scent; the magnolia glauca, so frequent in them, seems to hold out her fragrant lilies and crimson berries to the skeleton-prey of Stygian vapours; probably her lovely sisters are also compassionate.†

Indigenous esculents claim attention in several views. Those roots, herbs, grains and barks, that in case of need can support life, may be useful to travellers in the wilderness, and to troops that carry on an Indian war; the savages make this use of the inner bark of the elm, and the roots of *aralia nudicaulis*. The fallads of many kinds, gathered in divers parts of the country during spring, should be generally known. Several wild fruits might be improved by culture, as walnuts, crab-apples, papaws, *annona*, plums, grapes, persimons, honey-locust, *gleditsia triacanthos*; some persons have planted orchards of this and made plenty of metheglin from the sweet pods. While the sugar maple is of late justly valued, its kindred also merit more attention: we are credibly informed, that in Canada equally good sugar is made from the weaker juice of the red maple, a tree that abounds through all the States. The chestnut oak is said by Schoepf to yield in spring a copious agreeable drink; other trees may have similar saps. Aromatic plants deserve notice: the barks of young saffras and of *calycanthus floridus* ‡ much resemble cinnamon: the *acorus calamus* is under name of spice-wort, used in Massachusetts. The plants used as tea in divers parts deserve examination: the *caffine*, called South sea tea tree, is obscurely known, but has long been famous among the Indians.§

Many vegetable dyes are already in use, both among the Indians and the inhabitants; some of them are also recorded by writers, but a collection of scattered practice, and a selection of the best in every kind, are yet wanted. In this branch, the practice of other countries may also be adopted: thus the *rhus toxicodendron vernix*, varnish

\* See Gron. Virginia.

† Serpent. Virg. Sarsaparilla, &c. wants no mention; several cannot here find room.

‡ Called Carolina allspice.

§ They call it yaupan, and drink an infusion of the leaves in copious draughts, both as a dietetic and inebriating. It grows near the sea in the southern States, ten or twelve feet high.