

three other members of the family who had partaken of the poison were restored. The remaining members described to me their sensations; they first felt a deathly sickness and sinking feeling in the regions of the heart and stomach, then extreme weakness of the lower limbs, and followed by general weakness, in consequence of which they were unable to stand; but all the while they knew *perfectly well all that was being said or done*. Even Mr. Jones, although unable to speak, would open his eyes when requested to do so, and would occasionally observe what was being done as though he knew all about it; but on account of the remarkable dilatation of the pupils, he could only keep his eyes open a moment at a time. I never saw the pupils more, if as much, dilated, even by Atropia for the operation of cataract. There was also a twitching or throwing of the legs. Deceased's pulse was from 120 to 140; breathing variable, from 45 to 58.

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We have here a case which, but for the timely remedies rendered by Drs. Trousdale and Channonhouse, might have resulted in the death of a whole family.

Dr. Trousdale has determined the plant whose roots were used to be *Cicuta maculata*, L. He has also forwarded specimens of roots, dead stems, and fruit, to the Botanical Society, and an examination of these has confirmed the accuracy of the determination. This plant belongs to the natural order *Umbelliferae*, an eminently poisonous order, which contains such plants as *Conium maculatum*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Œnanthe crocata*, *Æthusa Cynapium*, &c. The *Cicuta maculata* which has been the cause of the present accident, is known throughout Canada and the States, by such common names as Water-hemlock, Spotted Cowbane, Beaver poison, Musquash-root, &c. That it is mistaken for *Aralia racemosa*, at this season of the year when foliage is absent, is not at all remarkable. However, in summer, it more closely resembles other innocent plants, of its own order, *Umbelliferae*. The *Cicuta* is widely distributed. In central parts of Upper Canada, it appears to be common. It is recorded as growing at Montreal (list of Holmes Herb.) and East Riding of Northumberland, (Mr. Macoun). We have examined specimens from Prescott (Mr. Billings), Churchill, Hudson Bay Territories (Mr. McTavish), Banks of Comale Creek, Texas (Lindheimer), &c., so that it has evidently a wide range. It does not occur in any of our local plant lists from Hamilton or the west, but as Torrey and Gray speak of it stretching to Oregon, it is probably common throughout Canada. Dr. Trousdale alludes to the accidental poisoning sometime ago of seven horses, which fell a sacrifice to this weed in the same locality whence the present more serious case reaches us.

The plant grows in swamps and lowland meadows, from 4 to 6 or 8 feet high, the stem at the base of the thickness of the fore-finger, more or less cylindrical, hollow, finely striate with green and purple, sometimes spotted. The foliage varies greatly as in most water plants. The leaves are compound, ternately divided with short broadly sheathing petioles; segments lanceolate, of variable breadth, mucronately serrate, all stalked, the primary veins running to the *notches* (instead of the points) of the serratures. The flowers are in large, chiefly terminal, umbels, composed of little umbelllets, with sometimes one or two leaflets as a false