

tion, better adapted to this purpose than all other nitrogenized vegetable products." The well-known nervous symptoms which tea, particularly the green variety, produces when a strong infusion has been used for a length of time, are to be referred to the volatile oil on which its flavor depends.

So universal is the consumption of tea at the present day, the supply could never meet the demand if vast quantities of an adulterated article were not regularly thrown into the market. Not only are the leaves of various plants, possessing astringent properties, made up and mixed with small quantities of tea, but even inferior qualities of the tea leaf are dressed to add to the appearance, and thus facilitate the sale. Now, as the nutritive properties of tea depend upon its theine, and as persons who cannot pay a good price, are almost entirely shut out from the undiluted article, we are glad to perceive that an efficient substitute has been found in the *coffee leaf*, which, possessing all the good qualities of the tea leaf, is not open to the objection of causing serious nervous derangement; an effect of tea-drinking which has threatened to drive green tea from the list of dietetic drinks. Specimens of the *coffee leaf*, prepared by torrefaction, and *caffeine* extracted therefrom, were exhibited by Dr. Gardner of London, at the Great Exhibition. This gentleman has since taken out a patent for its manufacture, and he has solicited, through the Ceylon papers, tenders for the supply of coffee leaves by the ton. In the London Pharmaceutical Journal, for November, Mr. Hanbury publishes a communication received from Mr. Ward of Padang, in the island of Sumatra, in which he says:—The natives have a prejudice against the use of water as a beverage, asserting that it does not quench the thirst or afford the strength and support the coffee-leaf does. With a little boiled rice and infusion of the coffee leaf, a man will support the labors of the field in rice planting for days and weeks successively, up to the knees in mud, under a burning sun, or drenching rains, which he could not do by the aid of spirituous or fermented liquors. . . . The natives universally prefer the leaf to the berry, giving as a reason that it contains more of the bitter principle, and is more nutritious. The roasted leaf used to form an article of trade betwixt the coffee districts of the interior and the lowlands of the coast, but since the government monopolised the produce, this trade has in a great measure ceased, the natives believing the sale of the leaf, as well as that of the berry, forbidden. In the lowlands, coffee is not planted for the berry, being not sufficiently productive; but the people plant about their houses, for the leaf for their own use, not, however to the extent of the demand. Whilst the culture of the coffee plant for its fruit is limited to particular soils and elevated climates, it may be grown for the leaf, wherever within the tropics the soil is sufficiently fertile. This extensive habitat, added to its nutritive