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LEECHES, AND HOW I MANAGE THEM.*

BY A COUNTRY CHEMIST.

Do you want to buy any leeches, master? No; but wherè do you procure them for sale? Such was the question and answer which recently occurred to the writer. The reply received was that they were procured from a large mere or tarn in the centre of Cheshire. The little ragged fellow, for such was my amateur leech merchant, said he waded about the margin of the lake, minus shoes and stockings, on a close warm day, when the leeches fastened on his ankles, and by this simple means he secured them. The lake in question is called Achmere or Lechmere, a corruption of Leechmere. Formerly large quantities of good medicinal leeches were captured in it, and sold to the surgeons and chemists of Cheshire; now, however, the trade has declined. Very few are caught, for the simple reason that sufficient purchasers cannot be found, or the supply might be considerably increased. I cannot detect much difference externally between these specimens and those procured on the Continent, except, perhaps, that they are much smaller.

* From the Chemist & Druggist.