

CANADIAN
PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

VOL. X, No. 6.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1877.

WHOLE No. CIII.

Original and Selected Papers.

A FEW NOTES ON VANILLA. *

BY P. L. SIMMONDS.

One of the most profitable and least troublesome cultures of humid tropical climates is certainly that of the vanilla orchid, of which there are several species, as the true vanilla (*V. sativa*, Scheed), the wild or simarona (*V. sylvestris*), and the pompona (*V. pompona*). It is grown from Mexico to Peru, on the American continent, has been introduced into several of the West India Islands, and is extensively cultivated in Reunion and Mauritius. The pods or fruit vary greatly in length. Those of Brazil are in general much larger than those grown in Mexico, and in France the pompona pods are known as "vanillons." Those of the province of Sergipe are 8 or 10 inches long by 6 to 12 lines broad. Those of Minaes are 6 to 9 inches long by 4 to 6 lines broad.

Vanilla in Brazil is very badly prepared; in fact, no attention is given to the culture, but the pods are merely collected in the woods as they ripen. It is considered in that country to have medicinal properties, and is much employed by the Spaniards and Portuguese to cure various maladies: being reckoned stimulant and stomachic, it is added to chocolate to make it more digestive. It is largely used in confectionery and perfumery. A kind of liqueur and a syrup are also prepared with it in Brazil.

In the "Medical Flora" it is stated that "vanilla exercises a powerful action on the animal economy, and justifies the attributes

*From the Chemist & Druggist.