

ing it to run into a vessel placed for the purpose if in the latter. Pressure is made occasionally to assist the flow, but as Dr. O'Shaughnessy observes, "by this means large quantities of the mucilage are forced out and mix with the proper bitter juice which is proportionately deteriorated;" for it must be recollected that the aloë contains a great deal of mucilaginous matter, abundant towards the centre of the thick fleshy leaves. The juice, after being received into a vessel, is exposed to the sun or other heat by which means it becomes inspissated.

All species of this genus are highly valuable in countries where they are hardy, and can be used irrespective of their medicinal importance, to beautify any rocky or otherwise arid spot and as hedge plants.

Analysing the official customs returns and taking the imports through Egypt, Bombay and the East coast of Africa to be Socotrine and hepatic, the sources of supply were as follows in pounds:—

	Total receipts.	Cape.	Socotrine.	Barbados.
1867	781,306	630,688	80,906	58,202
1868	725,295	534,108	96,524	69,013
1869	661,559			
1870	701,573			

The deliveries for home use and export from the London warehouses in the past five years were as follows:—

	Cases.	Kegs.	Gourds.
1867.....	4347	138	1965
1868.....	3505	34	1858
1869.....	3451	26	918
1870.....	3092	83	747
1871.....	4346	19	804

The stock on hand in London at the beginning of this year consisted of 3538 cases, 98 kegs, and 607 gourds.

CAPE ALOES.—*A. ferox*, Lamark, of South Africa, yields the best Cape aloes as observed by Dr. Pappe. *A. purpurascens*, Hawthorn, is also one of the plants which furnishes the Cape aloes of commerce, and so does *A. spicata*, Linnæus, an exceedingly handsome plant. This species is very common in the Madras Peninsula. The drug of *A. plicatilis*, Miller, acts milder than that of *A. ferox*. According to Thunberg, the finest gum-resin is obtained from *A. linguiformis* (or *angulata*), Miller. *A. Syheri*, Harvey, a magnificent very tall species, is doubtless valuable like the rest.

Dr. Pappe, in his "Flora Capensis Medicæ Prodromus," says the Cape aloes are procured from several species of this extensive genus so peculiar to South Africa. The *Aloë ferox*, Lam., a native of Swellendam is generally acknowledged to yield the best extract. That obtained from the *Aloë Africana*, Miller, is also equally good but not so bitter nor so powerful as a drastic. It is the produce of