

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW

stolen, and nailed above the door kept them and their influence outside a dwelling so protected. Various herbs and gums, properly used, were an effective defense, and a branch of the rowan tree, or witch-hazel, was another invaluable barricade against evil assaults. And when the supposed acts of a witch had become unbearable, there was a short and a sharp remedy. She was denounced, tried, condemned and executed. Certain marks and moles upon her body were believed to tell the fatal tale. The authorities thrust pins into these, and, if no pain resulted, the wicked possessor of them was doomed. A suspected witch could be placed in one scale while the heavy Parish Church Bible was placed in the other, and if the wizened and shriveled old woman did not outweigh it, her guilt was proved. She could be thrown into water, her hands and feet tied firmly together, and if she didn't sink, and so run a chance of death by drowning, she was at once denounced as an evil one. Wizards, of course, were subjected to similar tests, but were not nearly so numerous.

Execution speedily followed conviction, and the condemned wretches were hung or burnt, amidst the execrations of an outraged community. In 1775, nine victims to the ignorance of a brutalized people were burnt in Poland, and in June, 1727, the last witch was strangled in Scotland, although the Witch Act, as it was called, was not repealed until 1736. As recently as 1751, two persons, man and wife, said to possess bewitching powers, were quickly ducked in England, the poor old woman dying in the hands of the brutal mob who committed the outrage, and the old man speedily following her as the result of the injuries received by him. One of the ruffinally persecutors, fortun-

ately, was promptly tried on a charge of wilful murder, found guilty, executed, and left to hang in chains, as a warning to other cowards. That did much good to lessen the popular belief in witchcraft, and proved to be a more powerful preacher and teacher than pulpit and school had then supplied to the ignorant classes of Merry Old England.

(To be Continued.)

### NOTES FROM EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK.

Among the flowers found since last issue are the following:—

Viola Blanda, Sweet White Violet, Viola Rostrata, Long Spurred Violet, *Trientalis Americana*, Star Chickweed, *Coptis*, Gold Thread.

*Mitella Diphylla*, Mitre Plant.

*Actæa Spicata*, Var *Rubra*.

*Actæa Spicata* Var *Alba*.

*Antennaria Plantaginifolia*, Everlasting, *Waldsteinia Fragaroides*, Banen Strawberry, *Streptopus*, Roseus, Twisted Stalk, *Smilacina*, *Bifolia*, False Lily of the Valley, *Rauncivulus Abortivus*, Small Flowered Crowfoot.

*Geranium Robertianum*, Herb Robert, *Geranium Maculatum*, Cranes Bill, *Erigenia*.

*Arabis Hirsuta*.

*Uvularia Perfoliatop*, Bellwort, *Polygala Paucifolia*, Rabbit Plant, *Tiarella Cordifolia*.

*Cynoglossum Officinale*, Hond's Tongue, *Potamogeton* Var?

*Podophyllum Peltatum*, May Apple, *Sisyrinchium Bermudianum*.

Blue Eyed Grass, *Potentilla Canadensis*, *Galium*, *Trifolium Pratense*, *Brassica Sinapsis*, Mustard, *Malva Rotundifolia*, Common Mallow, *Potentilla Anserina*, Silverweed, *Cardamine Pratensis* (rare), Cuckoo Plant.

*Veronica Serpyllifolia*, Speedwell, *Cerastium Vulgatum*, Mouse Eared Chickweed.