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NOTES ON THE MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE
SCROPHULARIACEÆ.*

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This order, which is for the most part composed of herbaceous plants, is usually considered as comparatively unimportant in an economic point of view. With us this is to some extent true, the foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) being the only officinal plant of the group; but in other countries many species are esteemed as valuable medicines. The family is very widely distributed; its members are most abundant in temperate regions, but some are nevertheless found in other climates. Though many of the plants are acrid and bitter, their medicinal properties vary very much, as will be seen in the following consideration of the different species. Thus, in the foxglove, which is so well known that we need not describe the plant, the effects are remarkable for their varied operation, altering the frequency of the pulse, or enfeebling the action of the heart in various degrees in different persons.

In North America many of *Scrophulariæ* are used in medicine. *Scrophularia nodosa*, L., the figwort, a plant growing some two or three feet high, and found in woods and thickets over a good part of Europe, was at one time officinal in the Dublin Pharmacopœia, the leaves being used in the preparation of an ointment.

In some parts of Europe, as well as in America, they are occasionally used, as well as the roots, for making poultices for ulcers, tumours, burns, and cutaneous eruptions. The leaves have a rank,

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