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THE TRADE IN ALOES.\*

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Our supplies of this important drug do not seem to increase, and an annual import of about 700,000 lb. may now be considered as the average supply from all quarters. Although much useful information has been given from time to time on this subject in medical and botanical works, a few recent notes may be found useful to many.

The simply inspissated juice of the leaves of the various species of the genus *Aloe* constitutes this well-known drug. It is best obtained by using neither heat nor pressure for extracting the sap. By dissolving the aqueous part in cold water and reducing the liquid by boiling to dryness, the extract of aloes is prepared. The quality of the product is apparently more dependent on soil, climate and preparation than on any specific difference in the plant itself. A great deal depends on the mode of preparation.

The usual way of extracting the substance is by making a transverse incision in the leaves, or cutting them off at the base; then scraping off the juice as it flows if done in the former way, or allow-

\*Pharm. Jour. and Trans., August.