convenience of description, divide into two classes, native and foreign, dismissing the latter with but a brief mention of their uses.

Of the foreign species there are six :

Rhus Cotinus, sometimes cultivated in our gardens for ornamentation, under the names "smoke plant," "purple fringe-tree," and, from the curious appearance of its seed vessels, which look like a powdered wig, "perriwig-tree," is known in commerce as Venice sumach. It is a small tree with purplish-green flowers, supported on hairy peduncles, and is a native of Siberia, Austria, and Northern Italy. It is not used in medicine or pharmacy, but yields one variety of a wood known in trade as *fustic*, which has been largely employed for producing a yellow dye. A noticeable peculiarity about this species of Rhus is, that its leaves are simple, like those of the elm and maple, and not compounded, like the horse-chestnut and ash, as is the case with the rest of the genus.

Rhus Coriaria.—Of this, both the leaves and berries have been used as astringents and tonics, and the ground twigs as a dye-stuff. It is a native of the Ukräine, in Russia, and has been regarded by the inhabitants of that country, combined with a decoction of Genista Tinctoria leaves, as a preventive of hydrophobia. It is employed both internally and locally, and the peasantry have great faith in its curative virtues, but extended trials in other parts of Europe have shown it to be useless in this much-dreaded affection.

Rhus Succedanea is indigenous in Japan. From its berries is expressed a wax sometimes used in pharmacy, known as Japan wax. It is of medium quality, ranking between beeswax and the ordinary vegetable tallows.

Rhus Vernicifera, varnish or Japan sumach, inhabits India and Japan, where it is highly prized for its yielding, from incisions made in the stem, a gum from which is made one of the best of varnishes.

Rhus Metopium is found in the West Indies, chiefly Jamaica, and is said to be one of the sources of "hog-gum" so extensively used by bookbinders in the process of marbling paper. This peculiar, and certainly not euphonius, name is derived from the fact that hogs, when wounded, are reputed to rub themselves against this tree, so as to cover the wound with its juice, and form a protection against the irritation of insects.

Rhus Semi-alata, a native of China and Japan, yields a gall largely used, especially by the Chinese, in dyeing their celebrated yellow silks. It is also highly esteemed by them as an astringent medicine.

Of the native species of Rhus there are eight, and, not to afflict you with their scientific distinctions, I will classify them as poisonous and non-poisonous, chiefly confining my botanical descriptions to the poisonous class, it being most important, both in a diagnostic and prophylactic point of view, to be able clearly to distinguish these from certain non-poisonous plants resembling them. The eight species are equally divided, four being innocent and four highly noxious. And first, let me draw your attention to the non-poisonous varieties, meaning by this, non-poisonous by contact with the plant, for, if administered internally in large doses, even the innoxious ones act as irritants.

Rhus Aromatica — fragrant sumach — is a straggling bush with three foliate, hairy leaves; the pale yellow flowers, in clustered spikes like catkins, precede the leaves, which are sweet-scented when crushed. It extends from Lake Superior westward and southward, in dry rocky soil, a variety, the Rhus Trilobata of Nuttall, chiefly affecting the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevadas. This plant has, during the past two years, whether justly or not I cannot from my own experience say, obtained a high reputation as an astringent, and is at present being lauded in journals devoted to Materia Medica. In hæmaturia and chronic cystitis, where the ordinary remedies—ergot, gallic acid, and muriated tincture of iron—have failed, it is said to have been used with the happiest results. In phthisis, though not advanced as at all curative, it has a favourable effect in checking the hemorrhage, night sweats, and diarrhœa, often so exhausting and distressing. Five to twenty drops of the fluid extract may be given every hour in extreme cases of hemorrhage, and lessened as relief is obtained. For the diarrhœa fifteen drops may be given after each stool, while the night sweats are best treated with a dose of ten to twenty drops each night at bedtime. In the diarrhœa of children, where the stools are frequent, the pulse soft and feeble, the skin pale, the eyes sunken, and there is loss of flesh and general sense of lassitude, it is by some regarded as invaluable. Its use is also advocated in menorrhagia, dysentery, and diabetes insipidus, but it is in enuresis (incontinence of urine) that it has gained its highest reputation. Dr. Cooper, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, regards it almost as a specific in this complaint, and in the November, 1879, number of "*New Preparations*" records a number of cases cured by its use. From the strong testimony to its value, I would urge upon you, who are much more likely to see cases of this not uncommon affection than one engaged in Asylum practice, to give it a fair trial if you have not already done so. It is given in fifteen-drop doses four times a day, the last being administered just before retiring, till improvement takes place, when only the night dose is given, and continued until the habit is cured. At the same time, the patient