

Duyvenvoorde, ambassador from the States General to George I., a portion of which I will here quote:—

“I am extreemly pleased s^r that you have apply'd yorself to me
“for my advice about the use of the *Pareira Brava* which has been
“recommended to you, because I can give a very good account of it
“haveing been one of the first that introduced it in France. I have
“made abundance of lucky experiments about it which have made
“this medicine very well known to me, wherefore, I assure you, you
“can do nothing better than to make a tryall of it. . . . The
“*Pareira Brava* is a root which comes to us from Brazil by the way
“of Lisbon, but which the war has rendered pretty scarce; however
“it is to be found among the good druggists and is sold [at] Paris
“for 40 livres the pound. 'Tis called in Brazill the Universall
“Medicine, and made use of there in all kinds of distempers. A
“Capuchin monk who comes from thence told me he could not give
“it a greater character than by assuring me that in all their voyages
“they carried the gossell in one pockett and the *Pareira Brava* in
“another. . . .”

Helvetius recommended the finely-powdered root in five grain doses, to be taken in infusion warm like tea.

Petiver, apothecary of London, and secretary to the Royal Society, an active collector of objects of natural history of every kind, whose letters are also in the Sloanian collection, thus wrote, 'Dec. 11th, 1716, to Colonel Worsley, His Majesty's Envoy at Lisbon:

“ . . . I am glad to hear y^e Brazil fleet is safely arrived, w^{ch} I
“hope has brought some materialls for my succeeding *Collectaneas*,
“and amongst them nothing can be more welcome than specimens
“of y^e leaves and fruit of y^e *Ipecacuanha*, *Pareira Brava*, *Balsam*,
“*Capevæ* and y^e true *Brasile* and *Brasileto* woods, all which will
“be very acceptable discoveries. . . .”*

The first author to give an account in print of *Pareira Brava* seems to be Pomet, whose *Histoire des Drogues* was completed in 1692.† He describes the drug as then recently seen in Paris, and he figures the specimen given him by Tournefort.

Geoffroy, in his excellent *Tractatus de Materia Medica*,‡ a work he did not live to complete, calls the drug by its Brazilian name of *Butua* or *Pareira Brava* of the Portuguese, and describes it as a root, woody, hard, contorted, externally of dark colour, rough with many wrinkles, some long, some running round it transversely, like that of *Thymelæa* [*Daphne Gnidium* L.] internally of a dull yellowish hue, knit together, as it were, with many woody fibres, so that when cut transversely it exhibits several concentric circles, inter-

* Sloane MS., 3340, p. 306.

† As proved by letters of approbation which precede it. But it was not published until 1694.

‡ Tom. II. (1741) 21.