

HAVE MEDICAL VIRTUE.

MEDICINAL PLANTS THAT AID THE PHYSICIAN.

The Development of the Science of Botany From the Primitive Period—Plants that Have Wonderful Curative Powers—How Quinine Cinchona was Named.

Huge, richly colored stereopticon pictures of blossoming plants and flowers illustrated the closing lecture of the Columbia University popular course, delivered by Prof. Smith Ely Jelliffe of the New York College of Pharmacy on a recent evening, at the American Museum of Natural History. His subject was 'Medicinal Plants,' and a large audience listened with evident pleasure. He traced the development of the science of botany from the primitive period, when doctors were botanists, pharmacists, and physicians, to the present day, when the pharmacist has become the expert middleman, whose skill in compounding the medicinal virtues of plant and exact knowledge of drugs have rendered it unnecessary for the physician to bother his head about botany. He enumerated the herbs and plants and flowers that were supported in the days of the forefathers to possess medical virtues, but have since been known to be worthless, and described those now highly prized because of real curative qualities.

First of these, he said, is the May apple that grows in abundance along shady streams and along the fences of cultivated fields all the way from Canada to Florida. Aside from its beauty of bloom and its pulpy yellow fruit, it has a medicinal prize in its root from which are manufactured podophillum pills. The foxglove, too, that grows in gardenly clusters in old-fashioned gardens, has a virtue in its leaves that was known as early as the sixteenth century. From it is made digitalis, a drug of great merit in the treatment of heart trouble. Witch hazel, which formerly yielded a medicine used exclusively for bruises and sunburn, has lately been found to have great value still in the treatment of skin disease, the latter discovery being the tincture that is extracted from the branches and leaves of the last flowers of the year. The poison hemlock, which has been transplanted here in waste places from Europe and Asia, yields the poison which it is supposed socrates took for his fatal draught, and which is used now in the treatment of cancer and nervous diseases. Monk's hood, a beautiful plant with blue flowers that is cultivated for purely ornamental value in well-kept gardens, yields aconite. This lovely plant grows in all parts of the world, and it was known to the ancient Chinese for the poison extracted from its root. It is a deadly poison. A single root, bruised, and thrown into a tank of water will poison the entire supply. It is used efficaciously to depress the action of the heart. The green hellebore that decks the spring woods with strong fresh leaves and a spike of whitish blossoms yields another sort of poison, which makes its root valuable in veterinary medicine. Its worth as an insect and animal poison were known to the Romans, who employed it to poison vermin.

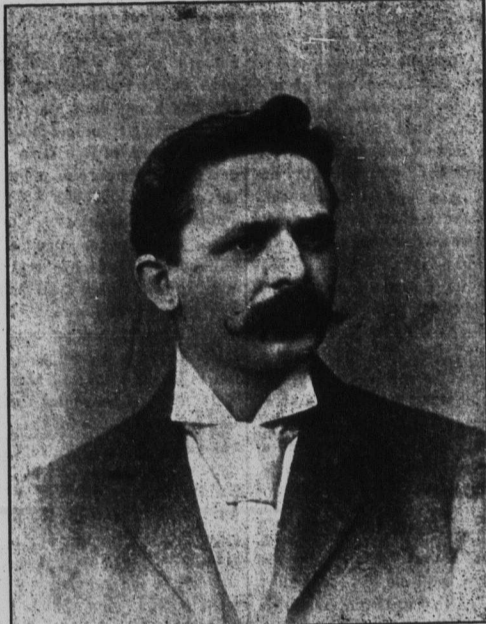
The yellow-flowered, hairy weed henbane, that grows here and in Great Britain has still different and distinct medicinal properties in its root and leaves. The extract of its leaves is administered to quiet maniacs in asylums. The root has an opposite effect. Belladonna, or the deadly nightshade, yields to the pharmacist the poison known as atropine, an overdose of which will produce delirium. A good many allied species of the plant grow here, although it is not indigenous to the soil. It belongs to the same family as the potato. Well-known cases are on record, by the way, of poisoning from the eating raw of very young potatoes, which seem to contain some of the deadly properties of the belladonna. Atropine is also obtained from the thorn apple, a very common poisonous plant which grows in vacant lots, and is recognizable by its prickly burr, and a white flower, resembling the blossom of the morning glory. The drug it yields has been known to the Hindoos from the most remote time, under the Sanscrit name of dhatoora. It appears that it was often used to produce insanity in persons in high station when it was feared that their brains in normal condition would prove better than the ruling sovereigns. Belladonna and its alkaloids although a menace to children who are liable to eat its berries, is prized by oculists for its quality of paralyzing the nerves in neuralgia and contracting the blood vessels in cases of inflammation arising from colds. Atropine is a perfect antidote for the poisonous mushroom.

Prof. Jelliffe described at length and entertainingly the manufacture of quinine from the bark. Of the discovery of this most valuable drug he told a romantic story. 'We are told,' he said, 'that an Indian of South America, who was lying helpless in a wilderness, sick of a violent fever, dragged himself to a pool of water near at hand to quench his burning thirst. After drinking he felt his strength gradually returning, and was eventually able to rise and go home. His experience excited

the greatest surprise, as no remedy was then known for intermittent fever, and many visited the pool. The bitter taste of the water led to the discovery that it was impregnated with the properties of the bark of the tree growing at the gorge. Its virtue was not known to civilization, however, until it happened that the wife of the Viceroy of Peru was lying ill of the fever, and a Jesuit priest recommended that the bark be ground to a powder and administered to her. The resultant cure was considered so wonderful that the Viceroy sent an expedition into the forest to collect the bark, and upon his return to Spain brought it with him and gave away large quantities of it to the sick. The name of the Viceroy was Luis Geronimo Fernandez de Cabrerera Bobadilla, fourth Count of Chinchon, and the scientific name of quinine cinchona owes its origin to the Countess of Chinchon, the Viceroy's wife, who was cured by the virtues of cinchona bark.'

sovereign was rewarded and he is now married. The fact is, however, that he did not find a wife among the young women with whom he had been accustomed to associate. They liked the colonists but the colony terrified them. His wife is a worthy woman, the daughter of a farm laborer, and she is making him a good helpmeet in his colonial home. British and Dutch colonists do not find it so difficult to induce the far sex of their old homes to share their lot in newer parts of the world; and when they have found it really difficult to get wives from the mother country many of the Dutch in the East Indies have not disdain to be joined in lawful wedlock with the daughters of the natives.

Many white men are now living in tropical regions, like equatorial Africa, where they have really no right to ask a white woman to share her dangers and hardships. Few women from the north tem-



W. J. OSBORNE, Principal of the Fredericton Business College.

Mr. Osborne, who has purchased the Fredericton Business College, comes to the Maritime Provinces with qualifications as an all-around business educator, of which few, if any, in Canada can boast.

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cial and Shorthand Departments of Mount Allison Academy, and has for the last five years held the position of senior teacher on the staff of Ontario Business College. He teaches the Isaac Pitman system of shorthand, and, as a penman, has no superior in this country.

For full particulars, address, Fredericton Business College, Fredericton, N. B.

SCARCITY OF WOMEN.

The Problem is How to Pick Up the Sexes in Some Promising Colonies.

Within the past fifty years the nation of Europe have seized vast parts of the earth's surface, chiefly in Africa and Asia, but including also many islands of the Pacific. The total area that has thus come under European flags is nearly as large as North and South America together. Some of these regions have been found to be well adapted for white settlement and emigrants have been encouraged to go to them. The European nation call these far-off lands their colonies, and they are very anxious to make themselves self-supporting and develop them into markets for home manufactures.

There is a question which is attracting more and more attention, and that is the scarcity of white women in these colonies. In the French colonies, for instance, even where the conditions are most favorable for colonization, as in Algeria, there are from four to six French men for every French woman. For the most part, there is no family life, and dissipation is more general than would be the case if there were more homes and more of the social life that is possible only when the sexes are in nearly equal numbers. Mr. Chailley-Bert, who recently wrote in the Paris Debates about the paucity of white women in the French colonies, said that the young men there were like the roaring lion, who 'goeth about seeking whom he may devour.'

It is not easy to solve the problem in the French colonies, for the young women of France are not at all eager to expatriate themselves, even to find good husbands and comfortable homes. There are hundreds of colonists who would like to get married. A colonist in Algeria has recently been telling his experience. He says that for three years he sought in his own social circle in France, for a young woman who would share his fortunes in the colony. At the end of that time his per-

son to zone are able to survive one or two child-bearing experiences in tropical Africa. Some white men who live there have expressed the opinion that it is little short of a miracle to bring women of their own race to these regions. The late Dr. Wolf, the German explorer, said that any white man there who wanted a wife should marry one of the natives of the country. Some of the Europeans in Africa have followed his advice, and among them Dr. Grenfell, the explorer and missionary, who married a negro girl who had been educated at a mission station on the west coast.

Two months ago the Canadian newspapers contained an advertisement from a mining camp in British Columbia in which it was announced that the camp was wholly destitute of women, that neither gambling nor the sale of intoxicating liquors was permitted in the settlement, that the miners were industrious, had saved money, and now they wanted wives and homes; and young women of the Dominion were invited to enter into correspondence with a committee as preliminary to possible immigration to the camp and marriage with the bachelors thereof.

The scheme is not to be commended. Each miner had better use some of the money he has saved to visit a district where women are plentiful. If he is the right sort, he will probably convince some damsel that she can be happy even in a miner's cabin in the far Northwest. Even today, in large parts of Canada, Australia, and Cape Colony, there are not women enough to supply the demand for wives. But when the societies that promote the emigration of women to the colonies send out a party, the last thing in their minds apparently, is the better chance these women will have to get husbands. They simply send women who lack work to colonies that want women. Their character and fitness for emigration must be approved, and then they are sent on the long journey in the charge of matrons, who see to their comfort, and are responsible for their safety until situations that will yield them a living are found for them. The United British Women's Emigration Association, the largest of all these societies, would refuse to assist any woman to emigrate if she should openly avow that she was seeking a husband rather than opportunities for work.—N. Y. Sun.

'Yes,' said Gen. Weyler, with the frank air he uses in speaking to correspondents, 'I have completely restored peace in the province of Pinar del Rio; and, besides that, I have an army of twenty-five thousand men just ready to march into that province to crush the insurrection.'—Puck.

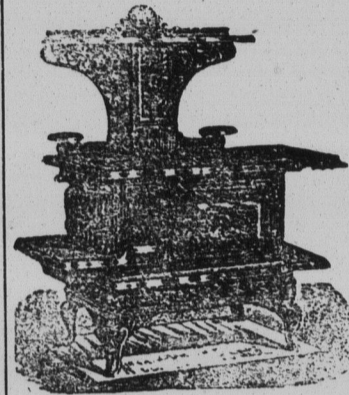
Mrs. E. B. Garneau, wife of President, Quebec Board of Trade, writes: 'Quick-cure' has always given instant relief to my children.'

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