

forming a cup which, as a warning, is called the "poison-cup." The upper part of the membrane remains attached to the cap, where it forms patches or warts upon its surface. At the same time the membrane covering the gills breaks away from the cap and forms an annulus or ring which envelops the stem like an apron or skirt. It is much more conspicuous than the ring on others.

This genus contains some edible species, but it also contains the most pernicious.

Nearly all the cases of mushroom poisoning, it is said, can be traced to two species of this genus. The chief danger lies in the fact that under some conditions they may be mistaken for *agaricus campestris*.

*Amanita muscaria* or "Fly Agaric," as it is sometimes called, a decoction for killing flies being sometimes made from it, is the most beautiful of fungi. The pileus from four to seven or more inches across, is bright yellow with dashes of crimson near the center, and scurfy or warty with the scattered remnants of the veil or volva. The flesh is white, yellow just under the skin.

The gills are free from the stem, white sometimes changing to yellow. The stem is slender, white, scaly, and has a bulbous base, which is margined by concentric scales which represent the poison cup.

In its perfect state it differs very greatly from the *Agaricus*, but in its button stage it may very easily be mistaken for it, and even in its later stages it may lose its scales and annulus, change in color, and if pulled carelessly, the cup may remain in the ground, so one must constantly exercise great care and learn to know it and its allied species under all their forms.

Although so poisonous, it is said to be eaten by the people of Kamschatka, and it is used as an intoxicant by the Russians in Siberia. Its narcotic properties are greatly increased by drying, and the juice of the whortle-berry, in which this substance is steeped, acquires the intoxicating properties of strong wine.

*Amanita phalloides* has a whitish or lemon colored