

that flaxseed occasionally does with us, *i.e.*, a grain of the seed is placed in the eye (where it gives no pain) to form a muscilage by means of which a foreign body may be removed from the organ. I have found it of great service as a poultice. As a matter of archæological interest, it may be noted that quantities of this seed were found buried in graves several hundred years old. This proves that the use of the seed reaches back into the remote past. Indeed, I find several allusions to the name Chia in the second volume of Bancroft's great work on the "Native Races of the Pacific States," pp. 232, 280, 347, 360. *Chianpinoli* appears to have been made by the so-called Aztec races from corn which was roasted and ground as the Chia. From this, however, I conclude that the term Chia was then a generic name applied to meal derived from several sources. At present the name is almost restricted to the product of *Salvia columbaria*. Chia was, among the Nahua races of Ancient Mexico, as regularly cultivated as corn, and often used in connection with it.

THE BORAX DEPOSITS OF CALIFORNIA.

Mr. Arthur Robottom, of Birminham, England, contributes to the *Chemist and Druggist* a most interesting account of his discovery of borax in California, and also describes his attempts at the utilization of the deposit. Mr. Robottom has been connected for over a quarter of a century with the tincal trade of Thibet; he has also had large experience with the boracic acid of Tuscany, and was the first to introduce borate of lime from Chili and Peru. Speaking of the discovery of tincal in Nevada, he says:

"Some 16 years ago tincal was found at the bottom of Cleer Lake in Northern California. I got a person to go and report upon it, and he found the supply would be limited. Parties in Nevada, at Fish Lake and Teels Marsh, began making borax from the borate of soda that exists in those districts. Borax at this time (7 years ago) was selling in San Francisco at 28 cents per lb., and every one in Nevada that had any land with only a small deposit of crude borate of soda upon it began making borax, thinking that this price would continue. I had correspondents in Nevada, and was kept well advised of what was doing.

"About three years ago Mr. Wood made another attempt to put up the price of borax to 75*l.* per ton. I then decided to go to the West Indies, Mexico, Nevada, California, Chili, Peru, &c. My object in going to Nevada was to examine the borate of soda deposits. After doing this I went on to San Francisco, and my name appeared in the papers as a borax expert. Many people hardly knew what borax was. I gave and received all the informa-