

*Hyssop*.—Perhaps no plant mentioned in the Bible has given rise to greater difference of opinion than this. Bochart thinks that marjoram, or some plant like it, is indicated. Dr. Royle arrived at the conclusion that it is no other than the caper plant.

*Lime* and the mode of obtaining it by burning the carbonate were known in the most remote periods of antiquity. It was used by Hippocrates in medicine. It is mentioned only three times in the Bible, in one instance being translated plaister, showing it was used then as now, for cementing stones, etc. There is a still more curious reference to it in Amos, where we read, "Because he burned the bones of the Kings of Edom into lime." This expression indicates a knowledge of chemistry as to the constitution of bones 800 years B. C.

By *Mallow*, no doubt is meant "purslane," which was used as a potherb.

The *Manna* of the Bible is certainly not the same as the manna of our shops, and has no relation to it.

*Millet* is probably a correct translation; and by it is meant the *Sorgum vulgare*, used in the time of Ezekiel, and at the present day in many countries of Europe, for making an inferior bread.

*Mustard seed*.—The tree named in the New Testament has been the subject of much dispute. Great difficulty has been experienced in fixing on a tree on whose "branches the birds can lodge." The *Salvadora persica*, however, answers this description.

*Natron and Soap*.—The word "*nether*" translated *nitre*, undoubtedly means *natron*. The substance denoted cannot be our *nitrate of potash*. In Proverbs, the incongruity of singing songs to a heavy heart is compared with the reaction which takes place when vinegar is applied to *natron*. In Jeremiah we have the same word again wrongly translated. "Though thou wash thee with nitre and take thee much *sope*," etc.; evidently *natron* is intended. The word *bôrith*, translated "soap," is a general term for any substance of cleansing qualities. We may understand the *natron* to represent a mineral alkali, and soap a vegetable one, probably some kind of potash. Numerous plants, capable of yielding alkali, exist in Palestine and the surrounding district.

*Olive Oil*.—This is one of the oldest drugs known. Jacob consecrated the stone pillar which he set up by pouring oil on its top. It was produced in large quantities in Palestine, and was exported thence into Egypt and other countries.—King Solomon giving 170,000 gallons yearly to the Tyrian hewers of wood. It was used in religious services, in making perfumed ointments, as an article of food and medicinally. Celsus frequently speaks of the use of oil, especially old oil, applied externally, with friction, in fevers, and in other cases. Josephus tells us that amongst the remedies employed