

A Botanical Sketch.

The following is a botanical sketch, given by Mr. Rosser, at a banquet of the students of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, in Toronto:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN STUDENTS OF THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY:—

When I received your very kind invitation for this evening, accompanied with the intimation that I would be expected to "make a speech," I can assure you I was somewhat perplexed, and the grateful morsel of anticipated pleasure was strongly tinged with the bitter thought of how unequal I am to your request. However, after casting about for a subject, I decided to give you a little botanical sketch, not that I would pose as a professor in that subject, and I am sure Professor Avison has drilled you to your hearts content in Phanerogams, Cryptogams, and every other gam, but he tells me he has not given you a lesson on the beautiful little plant I wish to introduce to you now.

This plant was discovered by the first gardener, Adam, in the garden of Eden, and has since attracted the attention of man. It is indigenous to every country and clime. In fact it is found to flourish wherever the foot of man has trod.

It is called Woman.

In appearance it is most attractive, growing to the height of from four-and-a-half to seven feet. The latter variety is not, however, much sought after, owing to the difficulty man has in plucking the fruit from its upper branches.

It is a domesticated plant, and is the object of peculiar care and solicitation of the gardener, who is usually not at a loss for volunteers to assist him in its care, as well as sharing in its admiration. I have known young men spend hours and hours burning the midnight oil in the study of this attractive plant, but I believe it is not necessary to be extravagant in the matter of oil, as I am told its study can be prosecuted with great satisfaction with a very dim light.

This plant does not attach itself so fondly to the parent soil as to be injured by transportation. In fact it is found to flourish best when at a period of its existence it is transferred to other soils. As it arrives at the proper stage for this process, you will observe delicate silken-like tendrils endeavoring to fasten themselves upon the object of its choice. It is now that the plant is robed in its most beautiful apparel, now that it is crowned with the most exquisite flower that has ever graced the earth. Shade after shade, light upon light succeeds, till the bud breaks forth in the loveliness of its maturity.

Man gazes and is transfixed.

It transforms the garden in which it blooms into a paradise, the perfume of its presence

stealing over one's being like a welcome deliriant, appealing more to the heart than the sense.

Poets have sung its praises. Orators have extolled its loveliness. Painters have decked it in the most radiantly, beautiful, and harmonious colors conceivable to their impressionable natures. Sovereigns have bowed down and worshiped at its shrine. You have all seen it, and have been more or less under its influence. It is called "love," and yields a peculiar ethereal substance known as the essence of two-lips, which, when obtained from a plant of tender years, is said to be delightfully refreshing, but not entirely satisfying. It can be taken in large doses, and repeated often. Yet, I would not recommend a too prodigal use of this subtle agent, a death being recorded from an overdose taken, I believe, as a wager. This essence, by long keeping and exposure to the light, produce an active principle known as matrimony, which has a decided influence upon the life of man. It acts very differently, however, on different constitutions; it sometimes entirely subjugates the patient, strangling and crushing all manhood from his being. In others it produces a most delightful feeling of felicity, awakening every attribute that is both manly and admirable in character. Now, gentlemen, this plant is one you cannot well get along without, and in selecting the one you wish to flourish in your garden (one is usually enough in any man's garden) be sure you get one that is acceptable to your taste and compatible with your temper. Do not choose a deadly night-shade, but a lily pure and beautiful in character and aspirations. Elevate it as your standard of purity. It will make you a better man, and your life more useful and happy.

A very nice specimen can usually be obtained for the asking, and I trust when "that event" does occur it will be the most felicitous of your life.

The British Pharmacopœia.

AN ADDENDUM TO BE PUBLISHED.

At the last meeting of the General Medical Council, held on Friday, November 29, 1889, the following report from the Pharmacopœia Committee was read and adopted:—

The Committee report that 29,000 copies of the Pharmacopœia of 1885 have been printed, of which 559 copies remain in stock.

The Committee recommend that 3,000 copies be now ordered from the printer, this number being the same as ordered on the last occasion.

The Committee recommend that an addendum to the Pharmacopœia of 1885 be prepared and issued in the course of next year, as was done in the case of the Pharmacopœia of 1867.

The Committee recommend that this addendum be prepared by Dr. Attfield, under the direction of the Chairman of the Com-

mittee, Sir Dyce Duckworth, and Mr. Carter, with the understanding that no new remedies are to be introduced into it except such as have met with general approval. This addendum should be prepared in sufficient time to allow proofs of the same to be sent to the several members of the Committee at least one month before the meeting of the Council in May, 1890, in order to its being submitted to the Council.

The Committee recommend that the Chairman, Sir Dyce Duckworth, and Mr. Carter, together with the Reporter on the Pharmacopœia, be authorized to determine on and to take such steps as may be necessary for obtaining information and assistance in the preparation of the addendum.

RICH. QUAIN, M.D.,

Chairman of the Committee.

—Chemist and Druggist.

Pharmaceutic Instruction in Different Countries.

In France, the title, Pharmacist of the first or second class, depends on the degree of general knowledge. Apprenticeship takes three years and is followed by a three-years' course in a pharmaceutic college. Instruction there comprises, besides objects more or less required everywhere, such as chemistry, botany, pharmacognosy and pharmacy, the following special branches: Toxicology, investigation of adulterations, natural history, mineralogy and microscopy. A manufacturer of pharmaceutical articles either has to be a pharmacist himself, or he has to employ a pharmacist as business manager.

From Germany, the education of pharmacists is stated to be satisfactory. General education required for apprenticeship to be entitled to one year's voluntary service in the army which means maturity for upper—secunda in government—colleges (gymnasias): to have passed assistant examination before a commission: three years' service as an assistant. Finally, a one-year-and-a-half course in a university. Approbation received entitles to independent conduction of a pharmacy.

In Austria an apprentice is required to have absorbed at least four classes of a gymnasium. Apprenticeship takes three years (or two years with a certificate of maturity.) University studies take two years. Government examination consists in two theoretical and one practical course.

In Belgium, a preliminary examination is required before entering on a two years' apprenticeship, during which lectures in pharmaceutic colleges have to be followed and after that two examinations take place. One of them comprises the branches of an assistant's examination, in the other one peculiar value is attached to the practical performance of chemical and pharmaceutical