

flavor of the nauseous, but inexpensive, olco-resin from far-off Brazil. The otherwise irreproachable bird's reply of "Never more" was highly mendacious, as I have myself seen the handsome tree growing in its native land and all over the south of Europe.

BAPTISIA TINCTORIA.—The wild indigo was one of the chief remedies used by the medicine men of the Sioux and other Indian tribes in the treatment of the malarious and typhoid fevers common in the marshy districts of America. It is a purgative in small, and an emetic in larger doses, and constitutes a good antiseptic, stimulating poultice for foul-smelling, indolent ulcers. A strong decoction (1 in 4) is an excellent gargle for ulcerated sore throats. The powdered rhizome and rootlets may be given in doses of one to five grains in pill.

BERBERIS COMMUNIS.—The common barberry has been given over by the regular practitioner in England to the wise women and herbalist who prescribe the fresh infusion (one in 20, one hour) as an astringent bitter in various forms of chronic diarrhoea, with considerable success. Combined with angelica and coriander, it was at one time largely prescribed in the fen districts of Essex, Lincoln and Cambridge, for the various types of low fever now grouped under the heading of malaria.

BISTORTA.—The Bistorta, or Snake-weed (*Polygonum Bistorta*) is a valuable friend of the physician, which has been quite forgotten of late years. Its virtues may be grouped as astringent, but it is mainly in the treatment of chronic discharges from mucous membrane that it has been used. For gleet, leucorrhoea, and vaginitis it may be administered in 20 to 30 grain doses of the powdered root, or as an one-in-ten infusion in two-ounce doses. It belongs to the natural order *Polygonaceae*, and is highly praised by medical writers in the seventeenth century.

BORAGO.—Borage (*Borago Officinalis*, *Nat. Ord. Boraginaceae*) a native of Aleppo naturalized in Europe had a great reputation early in the present century as a galactagogue. This class of remedies are now rarely used, but in one case in which the author had an opportunity of watching its effect on the mammary gland it seemed to be quite equal to chlorate of potassium, fennel, or any of the other drugs recommended in modern works on materia medica for the purpose.

BOGEAN OR BOGHANE.—The *Menyanthes Trifoliata* is largely used by the peasants of the North of Ireland as a domestic remedy for anorexia, dyspepsia, and cephalgia and has recently been advocated for functional amenorrhoea. It was one of the ingredients of a family recipe for rheumatism shown to the writer by a Londonderry farmer, who stated it was at least 200 years old.

BRYONIA ALBA.—The fresh and dried root of the *Bryonia dioica* is official in the Belgian, French, Spanish, and United States Pharmacopœias, and is widely used by British herbalists. Once largely

used by the faculty it had fallen into disuse, but has lately been restored to its rank as a hydrargogue cathartic, which, according to some authors, might well replace jalap, and also as a stimulating alterative and diuretic in serious inflammations, chronic bronchitis, rheumatism and sluggish liver. Its supposed utility in uterine hæmorrhage can hardly be said to be established on a firm basis.

BRYONIA NIGRA.—The black briony (*Tamus Communis*, natural order, *Dioscoreaceae*), must be labelled an old wife's remedy *par et simple*, but it is none the less worthy of mention. Its chief, and almost only value is as a topical application for bruises in the form of a poultice of the fresh rasped root.

CALOTROPIS.—Mudar (*Calotropis gigantea*, natural order, *Asclepiadaceae*) which has long since disappeared from ordinary books on materia medica, was introduced into this country early in the history of our trade with the East Indies. It is a diaphoretic, purgative and emetic resembling ipecacuanha. The powdered bark of the root is administered in 2 to 4 grain doses as a diaphoretic, and in 15 to 20 grain doses as an emetic.

CALAMUS AROMATICUS.—The sweet flag *Acorus calamus*, natural order, *Acoraceae*, is one of the oldest and best of our aromatic stimulants. It is used in the preparation of several famous Continental liqueurs, and constitutes one of the ingredients of a charming Vermont-like beverage, which I prepare for my private consumption, from a recipe picked up among the Pyrenees.

CALENDULA.—The marigold, *Calendula officinalis*, yields to spirit an aromatic principle which exerts a very beneficial influence over wounds, promoting cicatrization, with but little suppuration. *Lotio calendule* is prepared by diluting a one-in-ten tincture, made with rectified spirit, with 40 volumes of water.

CASTANEA EQUINA.—The horse chestnut (*Castanea equina*, natural order, *Hippocastaneae*) had at one time a reputation as a remedy for gout and rheumatism only equalled by that of the meadow saffron. A decoction of the dried bark is certainly a good tonic and febrifuge, and the expressed oil of the nuts constituted the specific topical application for neuralgia of the fifth nerve and sciatica of a famous witch-doctor in the mountains of Mayo.

CASTOREUM.—The dried preputial follicles of the beaver (*Castor fiber*; Order, *Rodentia*; Class, *Mammalia*) has been discarded by the compilers of the 1885 B. P. as useless, but is still largely prescribed by some of the first London and Continental physicians in the treatment of hysteria. A favorite prescription of Dr. John Williams, Physician-Accoucheur to T. R. H. Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Fife, for hysterical patients is a combination of the 1867 B. P. tincture and tincture of nux vomica.

CATECHU.—The unofficial varieties of catechu, viz., betel nut catechu, *Arca catechu* natural order, *Palmae* and black catechu, *Acacia catechu*, natural order

Leguminosae are quite as valuable astringents as the B. P. article.

CEDRON.—Cedron, *Simiba cedron*, natural order *Simarubaceae*, is a powerful bitter tonic which has long been used by the natives of New Granada as a febrifuge and antidote to snake bites. Five grain doses have been used with varying success in the treatment of ague, dysentery, neuralgia and gout.

CENTAURIUM.—The lesser centaurry (*Erythraea centaurium*, natural order *Gentianaceae*) held among the last century prescribers equal rank with gentian as a bitter tonic. The flowering tops gathered between June and August possess the most marked therapeutic properties.

CHEENORODIUM.—Wormseed, *Chenopodium anthelminticum*, natural order *Salsolaceae*, occupied, among the primitive savants of North America, the position which santonine now holds among us. It was given in two ounce doses of a fresh one-in-twenty decoction of the leaves, or in 20 to 60-grain doses of the powdered seeds.

CHIMAPHILA.—This pyrolaceous plant was at one time in high repute for its astringent, diuretic, and tonic properties, but, like others of the *bord de siècle* remedies, has sunk into disrepute. It is botanically styled *Pyrola umbellata*, and was administered as a decoction of one ounce of the leaves and stems in a pint of water (boiled for 10 minutes) in one to two-ounce doses.

CHICORY.—The *Chicorium intybus*, natural order *Compositae*, long enjoyed a reputation as a tonic cholagogue, diuretic, and laxative, but has now fallen from its estate to be merely an adulterant of coffee. This plant grows wild in North Cornwall.

CHIOCOCEA.—The snowberry (*Chiococca anguifuga*), a member of the *Cinchonaceae* from the far off Spanish Main, was introduced into this country early in the history of British trade with the Brazils as a safe tonic, diuretic, emetic and cathartic, specially indicated in the cachexia produced by malaria. It is still largely used by the natives of the remoter parts of the South American Republic, but is too nauseous to suit the palates of the refined and sensuous descendants of the Spanish hidalgos who people the large cities of the Brazils. The fresh decoction of the dried bark is, in the writer's experience, a safe diuretic aperient in Bright's disease, given in ounce doses thrice daily, and 2 drachms of the powdered bark constitutes an excellent emetic, prompt, powerful, and followed by little, if any, nausea.

CHINA ROOT.—As its name implies, the *Smilax China*, natural order, *Smilacaceae*, is a pharmacological recruit from the Celestial Empire, where it has long enjoyed a reputation as an efficient diaphoretic and demulcent. Like *Hemidesmus*, it is credited with anti-syphilitic properties in the East, but these probably only exist when the plant is fresh. Its properties have hardly been fully investigated in this country as yet.

(To be Continued.)