

The strangest part of the story is, that a part of it actually returns to the apothecaries' shops of Cochabamba and Lapaz in the shape of quinine, where it is sold to the Cascarilleros, to cure them of the "chills" to which they are so liable towards the end of May, and which, if not checked by large doses of this valuable febrifuge, quickly produces a liver disease which ends in death. These innocent Cascarilleros pay for one ounce of quinine about the same price the "banks" have paid them for 112 of the bark, and yet no one in Peru, Bolivia, New Granada, or Ecuador has the enterprise to establish a factory and make quinine on the spot.

In most respects the life of the Cascarillero is the same whether he carries on his operations in one republic or the other. The sketch given has been rather that of a Bolivian, but he may be looked upon as a fair type of all the others.

On the slopes of Loxa and some few other places the cinchonas are now nearly all destroyed. When it is considered that the cinchonas are nearly all cut down as being the easiest method of obtaining their bark, it is scarcely necessary to say that the supply is becoming exhausted. As against this opinion, however, the Cascarilleros have an idea that the cinchona region extends far eastward of the Andes into the great Montana Forest, and that there are fortunes for them there if they dare only go far enough in that direction. But their fear of the "Indios bravos," or savage tribes, forbids this; consequently at many points they have not yet ventured beyond the very selvedge of the cinchona region.

To give a rest to the trees the Bolivian Government has passed a law, that in certain districts no cuttings are to be made except tri-annually. This is evidently blind legislation, as a "Mancha" of cinchona trees once cut down does not grow again in less than thirty years. It is true that suckers immediately spring up around the stump, but not to become trees worth stripping for another generation. A wiser way, and one already practised in India, would be to let the tree continue growing and strip off the bark only in longitudinal sections. With the vigorous growth of the Andean climate a continuous succession of crops might be obtained every three years. Of course on cinchona plantations such rules can be enforced, whereas in the depths of the Andean forest the adventurous Cascarilleros could hardly be made amenable to such restrictions. A surer method for retaining the cinchona bark trade would be for the South American republics to cultivate the cinchona tree, as is being now done by the Dutch in Java and the English on the Neilgherry Hills in India.

As supplementary to the work of the bark collector, it would be as well to draw attention to the new and shorter route by which in future cinchona bark will reach the drug markets of London and New York.

The very important question of the navigability of the Amazon for large sea-going vessels was in May, 1865, finally decided. A vessel of 750 tons burthen, containing a floating dock for the repair of

vessels, was towed up the Amazon and safely moored off Iquitos in Peru, a distance of 2,200 miles from the mouth of the river. This part of the Upper Amazon is usually set down as belonging to the Republic of Ecuador, but, like a great many other things found on maps, it is an error. Both banks of this mighty river beyond the Brazilian boundary belong to Peru.

This power has at length made a treaty with Brazil which gives it the free use of the river; thus giving Peru an outlet to the Atlantic for her rapidly increasing trade. The most important natural product exported from Peru is without doubt the cinchona bark, and this treaty will, in the future, have a very beneficial effect on this branch of her commerce.

At the dockyard now firmly established at Iquitos some seventy skilled English mechanics are employed. Two large inland steamers run as regular liners between Tabatinga on the Brazilian frontier and Yurimaguas on the river Hualaga, a tributary of the Upper Amazon, distant some 300 miles beyond Iquitos, where the dockyard is established. These steamers connect again with steamers of higher draught which run up the Ucayali, the Pachitea and the Mayro, to the very foot of the Andes, within some 250 miles or less of the City of Lima. This wonderful water communication will be at once understood by referring to a modern atlas.

Some of the Indians living on the banks of these tributary rivers are "Indios bravos," or uncivilized pagan Indians, and live in deadly enmity to the Whites. They have been accused, upon pretty conclusive evidence, of cannibalism. The Cascarillero consequently keeps as much out of their neighborhood as possible and makes long and tedious detours to avoid the country inhabited by them, but the swift little river steamers, with a few long range rifles on board, have not as yet been molested. A quantity of bark has been of late years shipped by this route, being taken on board the ocean-going ships at the Port of Para. Some of the very finest bark ever brought from the Cordilleras of the Andes has this year appeared on the London market, showing that these lively South American Republics are not indifferent to the commercial advantages they possess in their matchless Amazon and its numerous navigable tributaries. It is much to be regretted that we in Canada know as little of the progressive Republic of Peru as the average Englishman does of Canada.

NEW WORKS.

We are in receipt of a new work called "The National Dispensatory," containing the Natural History, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Actions and Uses of Medicines, including those recognized in the Pharmacopœias of the United States and Great Britain, compiled by Profs. Stillé and Maisch, and published by Henry C. Lea, of Philadelphia, and containing upwards of two hundred illustrations. This book has just been issued in time to fill up a