

they make a most palatable and reviving cordial.
SASSAPARILLA. The root of this plant, which is the most estimable part of it, is about the size of a goose quill, and runs in different directions, twined and crooked to a great length in the ground; from the principal stems of it springs many smaller fibers, all of which are tough and flexible. From the root immediately shoots a stalk about a foot and a half long, which at the top branches into three stems; each of these has three leaves, much of the shape and size of a walnut leaf, and from the fork of each of the three stems grows a bunch of bluish white flowers, resembling those of the spikenard. The bark of the roots, which alone should be used in medicine, is of a bitterish flavor but aromatic. It is deservedly esteemed for its medicinal virtues, being a gentle sudorific, and very powerful in attenuating the blood, when impeded by gross humors.

GINSANG is a root that was once supposed to grow only in Korea, from whence it was usually exported to Japan, and by that means found its way into Europe; but it has been lately discovered to be a native of North America, where it grows to as great perfection, and is equally valuable. Its root is like a small carrot, but not so taper at the end; it is sometimes divided into several branches, in all other respects it resembles sasaparilla in its growth. The taste of the root is bitterish. In the eastern parts of Asia it bears a great price, being there considered as a panacea, and is the last refuge of the inhabitants in all disorders. When chewed it certainly is a great strengthener of the stomach.

GOLD THREAD. This is a plant of the small vine kind, which grows in swampy places, and lies on the ground. The roots spread themselves just under the surface of the morass, and are easily drawn up by handfuls. They resemble a large entangled skein of thread, of a fine, bright gold color, and I am persuaded would yield a beautiful and permanent yellow dye. It is also greatly esteemed both by the Indians and colonists, as a remedy for any soreness in the mouth, but the taste of it is exquisitely bitter.