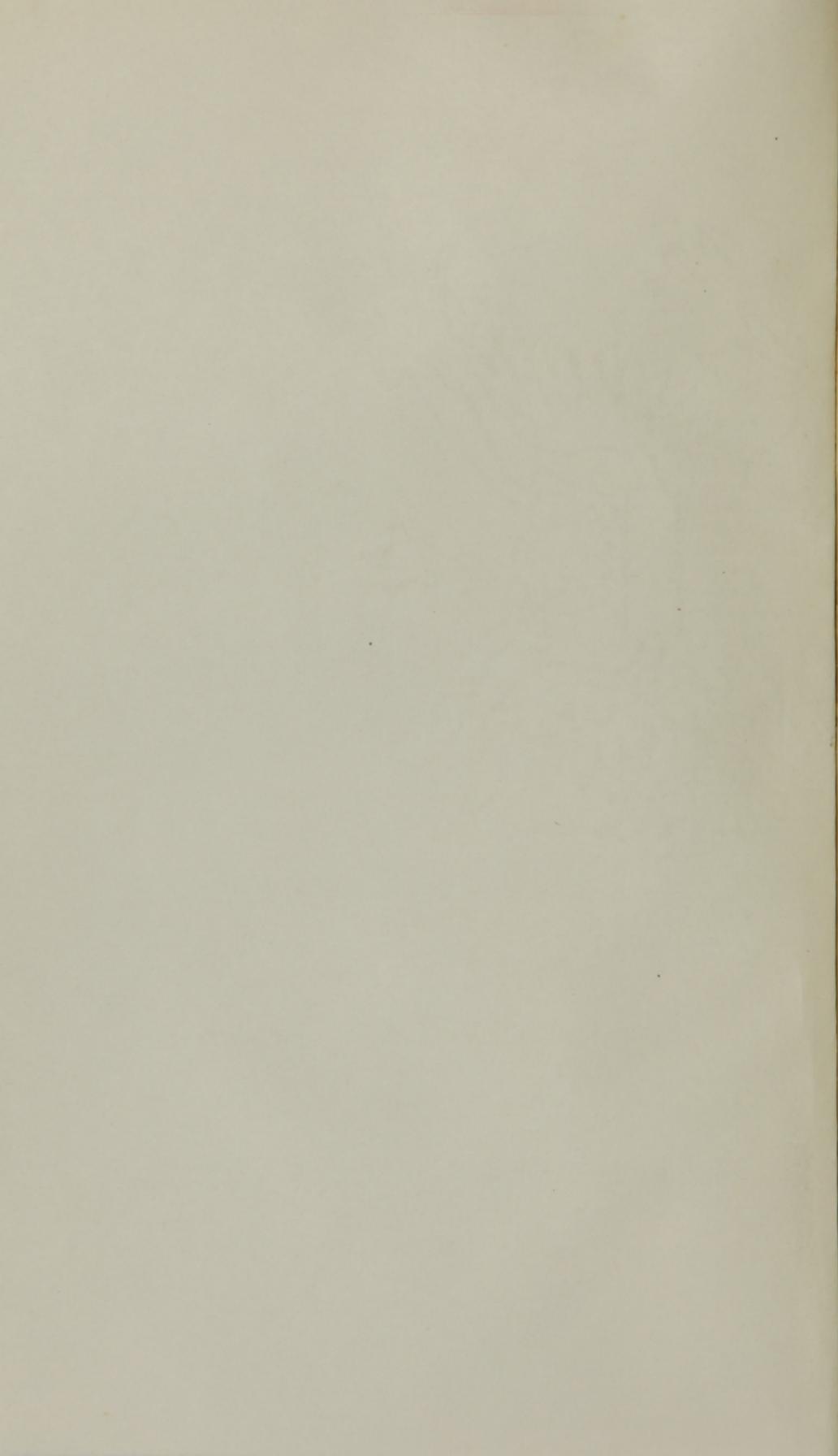


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LEE

CATALOGUE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS



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A CATALOGUE  
 OF THE  
 MEDICINAL PLANTS,  
 INDIGENOUS AND EXOTIC,  
 GROWING IN THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THEIR  
 COMPOSITION AND MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

BY CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA IN GENEVA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF  
 BUFFALO, ETC.

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 Washington

NEW-YORK:  
 J. & H. G. LANGLEY, 5 BARCLAY-STREET.

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COMPOSITION AND MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

By CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.

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PLANTS  
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NEW-YORK.

J. & H. G. LANGLEY & BARCLAY-STREET.

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# M E D I C I N A L P L A N T S

OF

NEW-YORK.

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THE State of New-York, embracing an area equal to the whole of Great Britain, abounds in natural resources of an almost inexhaustible character; furnishing as many incitements to mental and physical labor, as any territory of the same extent on the habitable globe. These resources are, through the liberality of the state government, and the enterprise of private individuals, becoming rapidly developed, and in a few more years, at farthest, we shall doubtless have the materials for acquiring a very complete knowledge of the entire natural history of the state. We have thought that we should do our readers a service, and add our mite towards the advancement of this great work, if we presented in our pages, in a moderate compass, as full a list of the medicinal plants of the state, as our present means of information would enable us to supply; and we have accordingly prepared such a catalogue from all the sources within our reach; which we now offer to the profession. In doing this, we have drawn largely from the recent "*Flora of the State of New-York*," by Dr. Torrey; without which, indeed, the work could not have been accomplished. We have also followed Dr. T.'s arrangement, as the best within our knowledge. One object of our catalogue is, to aid the profession throughout the state, in further investigating our indigenous *materia medica*; and to this end, we have adopted the natural system of arrangement, as the only one which can serve as a useful guide to the medical man in pursuing the study of this interesting science. By comparing the medicinal properties of all the plants, belonging to the same natural order, he will be able to understand how far botanical affinities aid in arriving at a knowledge of their therapeutic effects, and to avail himself of these analogies in prosecuting further researches.

The whole number of flowering plants hitherto discovered in this state, according to Prof. Torrey, is about 1450 species. Of these about 1200 are herbaceous, and 150 ornamental. We have 250 species of woody plants, including eighty that attain the size of trees. There are also about 150 species of plants that are known to possess medicinal properties. Of exotics, now naturalized, we have 160 species, many of which have probably been introduced with grain, and other agricultural products, from abroad. Of such, are nearly all the weeds which prove so troublesome to the farmer. To the same source we are also indebted for many of our useful species, as most of our different grasses, which spring up spontaneously on every hand.

Of *Ferns* we have about sixty species belonging to the Flora of the state, some of which are medicinal. The *Male Fern* does not grow within the limits of the state. Our *Mosses*, *Liverworts*, *Lichens*, and *Sea-weeds*, have as yet been but very imperfectly investigated; though many of them would undoubtedly furnish valuable resources to the medical man. When these have become more fully known, we shall no longer send to Iceland, Ireland, and the East Indies, for mucilaginous mosses, and other remedies of this class. Our *Fungi* are almost innumerable, constituting, probably, at least 3000 species, but few of which have been thoroughly studied. Here is a wide field for such as wish to distinguish themselves by making discoveries in a *terra incognita*. At present our knowledge scarcely suffices to enable us to distinguish such as are poisonous from those which are edible and nutritious. Where is the genius, which is to illustrate this dark region? Where the man, whose name is to be connected with this branch of natural science, in all future time?

It is not to be supposed, that the botany of this state is as yet fully explored. A large majority of our phenogamous plants have undoubtedly been discovered; but yet we believe that numerous interesting plants of this class yet remain undetected, besides thousands of the cryptogamic order. The geological features of our state are greatly diversified, and so is its range of temperature; and the geographical range of plants is as extensive, being governed by both these circumstances. Already we can number as many species as are found in the whole of New England. But we have mountainous and alpine regions in our state, elevated some 6000 feet above the ocean, which furnish an alpine vegetation, and which yet remain almost unexplored. We have many plants on our Atlantic borders, as Long Island, which are found no where else in the state; and the same remark will apply to the valley of the Hudson, and to our mountainous and western and northern regions. We have many marine plants growing on the borders of our northern lakes, showing that their waters were formerly saline. According to Dr. Torrey, our most numerous dicotyledonous

orders are the RANUNCULACEÆ, which constitute about 1-38th of the flowering plants; the CRUCIFERÆ, 1-45th; the LEGUMINOSÆ, 1-26th; ROSACEÆ, 1-25th; UMBELLIFERÆ, 1-39th; COMPOSITE, 1-9th; ERICACEÆ, 1-34th; LABIATE, 1-32d; SCROPHULARIACEÆ, 1-39th. Of monocotyledonous plants there are but three large orders, viz., ORCHIDACEÆ, which form about 1-39th of our flowering plants; CYPERACEÆ, 1-9th, and GRAMINEÆ, 1-12th; which proportions vary but little from the average of the whole Flora of North America.

We have omitted the botanical description of the different orders, genera, and species, as it would have extended our article beyond the limits of our pages; the reader, moreover, is supposed to be furnished with *Torrey & Gray's "Flora,"* *Eaton & Wright's "Manual,"* *Wood* or *Beck's "Botany,"* with the aid of which he will be easily enabled to identify any given species. The student in his walks for exercise, and the country practitioner in his daily rides, will find an abundant source of amusement and mental recreation, in studying the various plants which may be presented to their observation.

## DIVISION I.—FLOWERING OR PHENOGAMOUS PLANTS.

### CLASS I.—EXOGENOUS PLANTS.

#### SUB-CLASS I.—POLYPETALOUS EXOGENOUS PLANTS.

##### NATURAL ORDERS.

#### RANUNCULACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE CROW FOOT TRIBE.)

The plants belonging to this order are generally acrid and caustic, though they vary in their physical properties. In some of them we detect a peculiar acrid principle, of a volatile nature, dissipated by heat, or by simple drying; neither acid nor alkaline; in others, as the *Accutium* and *Delphinium*, the active ingredient is an alkaloid, highly deleterious even in minute doses. In some, the only marked properties are those of the pure bitters, as in *Coptis* (Gold Thread) & *Hydrastis*.

CLEMATIS, (*Virgin's Bower*,) three species in the state. OCHROLEUCA; VIRGINIANA; and VERTICILLARIS. The VIRG. has been considerably employed as an emetic, diaphoretic, and alterative. Most of the species have a somewhat acrid taste, and are vesicant; externally as revellants, and externally and internally in the treatment of chronic rheumatism. An infusion of the bruised leaves and flowers forms a good lotion for the removal of spots and freckles from the skin, and a decoction of the root is useful as a purge in hydropic cases.

ANEMONE, *Linn.*, five species. NEMOROSA, *Linn.* CYLINDRICA, *Gray.* VIRGINIANA, *Linn.* MULTIFIDA, *Poir.* PENNSYLVANICA, *L.* The medicinal properties of *Anemone* are similar to those of the *Clematis*, only more active. The *Nemorosa* acts as a poison to cattle,

producing bloody urine and convulsions. An ointment of it speedily cures *Tinea capitis*. In the recent state most of the species are acrid and rubefacient. They contain a peculiar crystallizable principle, called *anemonin*, which is converted into *anemonic acid*, by the action of alkalis. The *A. VIRGINIANA*, *Linn.*, (Thimble weed), is supposed to possess the power of curing the bite of the Rattlesnake. A decoction of the root of the *Nemorosa*, would probably prove useful in chronic rheumatism.

*HEPATIC TRILOBA*, *Chaix.*, (Liverwort or Liverleaf) A mild, demulcent, tonic and astringent; slightly diuretic and deobstruent, scentless and almost insipid. A decoction of it may be drank *ad libitum*. Its medical properties are very slight.

*RANUNCULUS*, *Linn.*, (Crowfoot Butter-cup.) Of this we have fourteen species, nearly all of which are more or less acrid and caustic, when fresh, but nearly inert when dried.

The *FLAMMULA*, *Linn.*, (Spearwort,) which grows in low wet grounds and ditches, is one the most acrid of the genus, and is sometimes employed as a vesicant, and the distilled water as an emetic. Most of the species, when applied to the skin, in a fresh state, act as vesicatories; they are apt, however, to cause ulcerations difficult to heal; useful as counter-irritants in rheumatism, neuralgia, etc., or whenever we wish to make a powerful impression on the surface. The acrid principle is volatile, dissipated by heat or drying, and may be separated by distillation. When chewed, the plant excites violent inflammation in the mouth and fauces, and if swallowed, a burning sensation in the stomach, and inflammation. None of the species should be used internally. The *bulbosus* and *acris* are among the most acrid. Decoction inert.

*CALTHA PALUSTRIS*, *Linn.*, (Marsh Marigold), used as a pot-herb. A syrup prepared from it is a popular remedy for coughs. Slight medicinal properties.

*TROLLIUS LAXUS*, *Salisb.*, (Globe Flower,) has the same properties as the *Ranunculus*.

*COPTIS TRIFOLIA*, *Salisb.*, (Common Gold Thread). A well-known herbaceous plant, with perennial roots, of a bright yellow color, growing in swamps and boggy woods. A pure and powerful bitter without any astringency; more palatable than any of the pure bitters, imparting its virtues to water and alcohol; useful in all cases where a pure tonic is indicated, also as a local application in aphthous and other ulcerations of the mouth. A very useful stomachic in atonic dyspepsia and loss of appetite, in form of infusion or tincture. Its virtues depend on a bitter extractive matter, which is precipitated by nitrate of silver and acetate of lead. Contains neither resin, gum, nor tannin. Dose of substance, 10 to 30 grs.; of the tincture  $\bar{3}$ j., prepared with  $\bar{3}$ j. of root to O.j. diluted alcohol. Might be substituted in many cases for exotic bitters.

**HELLEBORUS\* VIRIDIS**, *Linn.*, (Green Hellebore). This is an exotic, but naturalized on Long Island. Its medicinal properties, like those of the other species of Hellebore, do not depend, like the *Ranunculus*, on an acrid volatile principle, but a permanent resinous substance, which is weakened but not destroyed by drying. Like the *H. niger*, the *viridis* is a hydragogue purgative and emmenagogue, and equally valuable; if anything, more certain and energetic. The acrid properties of the fresh root are owing to a volatile acid, similar to the *cevoidic*. Chiefly useful as an emmenagogue in cases of torpid function; an alterative deobstruent in chronic rheumatism, in form of *tincture*.

**DELPHINIUM,†** *Linn.*, (Larkspur). We have one species of this exotic naturalized, the **CONSOLIDA**, *Linn.*, (the common Larkspur of our gardens,) which owes its active properties to a peculiar alkali, *delphinia*, which resides chiefly in the seeds, a tincture of which has been recommended in asthma, calculus, and as an anthelmintic, in doses of 20 to 30 drops. It is very active, in small doses, exciting nausea, vomiting, and inflammation of the mucous membrane. A decoction of the flowers was formerly considered efficacious in diseases of the eyes. The tincture will speedily destroy lice in the hair. *Root* the only officinal part, although all parts are endowed with an acrid and bitter principle, which is more abundant in the seeds, which also contain much oil. The Larkspur is too harsh and violent in its operation for internal use, and is now chiefly employed in veterinary practice, to destroy vermin on horses and other animals. The name *consolida* was given to the above species from its supposed efficacy in the healing of wounds.

**ACONITUM,‡** *Linn.*, (Wolfsbane). We have one native species of this plant, according to Major Leconte, growing in this state, (Chenango county), viz., the **UNCINATUM**, *Linn.*, which has bright blue flowers, and a tuberous root. Like all the other species, it contains a peculiar alkaloid, of a very active nature, *aconitine*. The **NAPELLUS**, *Linn.*, the officinal species, is cultivated as an ornamental plant in our gardens. Its active properties are considerably lessened by cultivation. *Root* most powerful, though all parts of the plant are active.

Internally, aconite operates powerfully on the cerebro-spinal system, diminishing its power, and thus producing to a greater or less extent, paralysis of sensation and motion. Applied externally, it first produces heat and tingling, then numbness, or loss of feeling; hence useful in

\* From the Greek, *helein*, to cause death, and *bora*, food, the plant being poisonous.

† From the Greek, *delphin*, a dolphin, from the shape of the upper sepal.

‡ From *Acone*, a town in Bithynia.

neuralgia, rheumatism, and other painful local affections. Owing to its extreme activity, it should be used internally with great caution. Dose of powdered leaves, one to two grs. ; extract, half a gr. to one gr. ; and of the tinct., six to twenty drops.

*ACTÆA*,\* *Linn.*, (Baneberry). We have two species of this genus growing in this state, viz., the *RUBRA* (*Bigel*) and the *ALBA* (*Bigel*), both of which go under the name of *White Cohosh*. Of the one, the berries are of a bright *cherry-red*, and of the other, *milk-white*. The *root* officinal.

Medical and physical properties of the two species, nearly identical. The *Actæa* is purgative and emetic, in small doses alterative. Dr. Torrey states that it is a mild astringent and tonic. This plant is often confounded with the *Cimicifuga*, and employed in the place of it. This has arisen from the fact that Linnæus placed *Cimicifuga* in the class *Actæa* ; though *Pursh* afterwards formed it into a distinct genus. They are now properly ranked as two distinct genera. Its properties deserve further examination.

*CIMICIFUGA*,† *Linn.*, (Bugbane-Cohosh). One species grows in this state, the *RACEMOSA*, *Ell.*, (Black Snake-root, Black Cohosh, Rattle-weed), the *Macrotys* of *Rafinesque*. The *root*. This is the *true Cohosh*, and is a very useful medicine in many diseases ; much used by the Indians as emmenagogue, and in rheumatism. A stimulating tonic, increasing the cutaneous, urinary, and bronchial secretions, although slightly narcotic ; chiefly valuable in rheumatism, chronic affections of the liver and lungs ; useful as an alterative, in combination with iodine, in many chronic diseases ; good diaphoretic ; used by the Indians as an antidote against the bite of the rattlesnake ; a mild sedative to the nervous system. In large doses, produces vertigo, impaired vision, nausea and vomiting, and a reduction of circulation ; useful in dropsy, hysteria, chorea, and early stages of phthisis. Dose of saturated tincture, ʒ i. to ʒ ij. ; of decoction, made with ʒ i. of root to O.j. water ; O.ss. to O.j., in 24 hours. Its powers depend on a somewhat volatile oil and bitter resin, both soluble in alcohol, and partly so in water.

*ZANTHORIZA*,‡ *Marsh.*, (Yellow Root). We have one species, the *APIIFOLIA*, which has a secondary place in the United States Pharmacopœia. It is tonic, and resembles very closely columbo, quassia, and the other simple tonic bitters. May be profitably used in some cases. Root is from three inches to one foot long, half an inch thick, and intensely bitter ; imparts its color and taste to water ; qualities depend on a bitter gum and resin ; given in decoction, tincture or powder.

\* From the Greek, *akte*, elder, which its leaves resemble.

† From the Latin, *cimex*, a bug, and *fugo*, to drive away.

‡ From the Greek, *xanthus*, yellow, and *rhiza*, root.

*HYDRASTIS\* CANADENSIS*, *Linn.*, (Yellow Root). A powerful tonic bitter. A decoction of root and fresh juice much used in ophthalmia of a chronic kind; powdered root a popular application in cancer; slightly narcotic; powdered root said to blister; given in tincture, powder, and decoction. Its virtues deserve further investigation. Used by the Indians as a permanent yellow dye.

The above are all the genera of *RANUNCULACEÆ* growing in the State of New-York, which are known to possess medicinal properties. There are, indeed, but two other genera, the *AQUILEGIA*, *Linn.*, (Columbine), and *THALICTRUM*, † *Linn.*, (Rue Anemone), belonging to this natural order, in the state, and these, so far as known, are entirely inert. It will be seen, that although there is a general resemblance in the properties of the different genera, yet that, in some instances, there is a striking dissimilarity, as between the *Coptis* and *Zanthoriza*, pure bitters, destitute of acidity, and the powerfully acrid *Aconite* and *Hellebore*. Whatever, therefore, may be the external or internal natural structural affinities, we perceive that a knowledge of the medicinal properties of one plant of any natural order, is not always a safe guide to those of another, belonging to the same order.

ORDER II. *MAGNOLIACEÆ*, *Juss.*—(THE *MAGNOLIA* TRIBE.)

*MAGNOLIA* ‡ *GLAUCA*, *Linn.*, (Common Magnolia. Sweet Bay). This tree, from 8 to 30 feet high, the only species of the genus, is found in cedar swamps on Long Island, but not elsewhere in the state. *Bark*, stimulating, aromatic, tonic, and diaphoretic, used by the Indians in autumnal fever and rheumatism. The warm decoction acts as a gentle laxative, then as a diaphoretic; the cold decoction, powder, or tincture, as tonic; hence successfully used in intermittent fever, and remittents of a typhoid type, etc.—A *tincture* of the cones and seeds useful in chronic rheumatism, and as a prophylactic against intermittents. Dose of powdered bark, ʒ ss. to ʒ j., decoction or infusion, *ad libitum*. The bark affords a green resin, a volatile oil, and a peculiar crystallizable principle analogous to *Liriodendrin*.—The other species of magnolia possess similar properties.

*M. ACUMINATA*, *Linn.*, (Cucumber tree). Grows in middle and western parts of the state, medicinal virtues same as former. The *TRIPETALA* (Umbrella magnolia) probably grows in our southern tier of counties, as it is found in Pennsylvania.

*LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA*, *Linn.* Grows in this state; common names, tulip tree, poplar, American poplar, etc. Medical properties closely resemble those of the magnolia—diuretic, diaphoretic, tonic, an-

\* From the Greek, *hudor*, water, from its growing in moist places.

† From the Greek, *thallo*, to be green, or flourishing.

‡ Named in honor of Professor Magnol, a French botanist.

tiperiodic, anthelmintic. Bark should be collected during winter—dose ʒj. to ʒij. pulverized. Taste pungent, aromatic, bitter. Dr. Emmet discovered in the bark of this tree a new principle which he called *Liriodendrine*, solid, brittle, and inodorous at 40°, fusible at 180°, and volatile at 270° F. Soluble in alcohol, consists of a resin and volatile oil. Infusion best form of administration.

This article has been used with success in intermittents, dyspepsia, chronic rheumatism, and wherever a mild stimulant tonic is indicated. These two genera are all that are embraced in this order that belong to our state, and the same virtues belong to both.

#### ANONACEÆ, *Juss.*—(CUSTARD-APPLE TRIBE.)

The order ANONACEÆ (CUSTARD-APPLE TRIBE) furnishes but one plant indigenous to our state, viz., *UVARIA TRILOBA*, which is found in Monroe, Niagara, and Chautauque counties. It occurs as a shrub or tree from 6 to 10 feet high, with a smooth grayish bark, slender branches, and leaves 6 to 8 inches long, 2½ to 3½ inches wide, on short petioles; flowers purple, mixed with yellow; fruit oval, 2 to 3 inches long, and yellowish. The medical properties of this plant have not been tested in this country; but they deserve investigation, from the fact that the same genus in Java, possesses powerfully-stimulating, aromatic properties, and the same probably belong to it here.

#### MENISPERMACEÆ, *Juss.*

The COCCULUS or MOONSEED TRIBE, includes the *Cocculus indicus*; the *Columbo*; *Pareira brava*, etc. North America furnishes six, the state of New York, one genus belonging to this order. They contain narcotic, or bitter tonic properties, or both combined.

MENISPERMUM\* CANADENSE, *Linn.*, (Canadian Moonseed). Not an uncommon plant in this state; found on the banks of rivers, woods, and in thickets. It is a climbing plant, and the root possesses very valuable tonic and diuretic properties. In Virginia, it is employed extensively by physicians and in domestic practice, as a substitute for sarsaparilla in scrofulous and other chronic affections; as an alterative. Deserves further trial.

#### BERBERIDACEÆ, *R. Brown.*

The BARBERRY TRIBE furnishes four genera in our state, all of them possessing valuable medicinal properties, viz., BERBERIS, LEONTICE, PODOPHYLLUM, and JEFFERSONIA.

BERBERIS† VULGARIS, *Linn.*, (Common Barberry). A shrub, 3

\* From *mene*, the moon, and *sperma* seed; the seeds being *lunate*.

† *Berberys*, the Arabic name of the plant.

to 8 feet high, leaves of a bluish green color, acid; flowers pale yellow; berries red and very acid; a naturalized exotic. The berries have a grateful, sour, astringent taste, and contain malic and citric acids; they are refrigerant, astringent, and antiscorbutic, and useful in febrile diseases, in the form of drink. The fruit is often made into a sweetmeat, and the jelly mixed with water, makes a grateful drink. Root and inner bark are used for a yellow dye; the coloring principle is called *berberin*; this may be isolated in the form of distinct crystals, and, in doses of from one to ten grains, acts as a tonic and purgative; cultivated in gardens; useful as a wash in apthous sore mouth; Griffith says, it acts like rhubarb, and with equal promptness and activity.

LEONTICE THALICTROIDES, *Linn.*, (Blue Cohosh, Papoose Root, Squaw Root). Much employed by root-doctors and empirics, formerly used by the Indians, from whom they pretend to have learned its medicinal properties. It is demulcent, diuretic, emmenagogue, and antispasmodic; and has been employed with success in rheumatism, dropsy, amenorrhœa, and nervous disorders. The Indians think it facilitates parturition. The plant has never been analyzed; but well deserves a more careful investigation.

PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM,\* *Linn.*, (May-apple. Mandrake, Hog Apple). A very certain and somewhat drastic cathartic, resembling jalap in its mode of operation, inducing watery stools, in doses of from ten to thirty grains, of the powdered root. Root contains a peculiar principle, *Podophylline*, which belongs to the same group as *salacine*; also *resin*; to which its medicinal properties are owing. Combined with bitartrate of potass, this article is useful in the treatment of dropsy, rheumatism, and scrofulous affections. The extract in small doses is said to diminish the pulse, and relieve cough; hence employed in hemoptysis, catarrh and other pulmonary affections.—(*Official*, U. S. P.)

JEFFERSONIA† DIPHYLLO, *Pers.*, (Twin Leaf, Rheumatism Root). The root of this plant is stimulant, diaphoretic, diuretic, and antispasmodic, highly useful in chronic rheumatism; hence its popular name. An infusion has been employed with success in chronic ophthalmia; also as a detergent wash in foul ulcers, and cancerous sores; also possesses decided alterative properties, and deserves trial in cases where such remedies are indicated.

CABOMBACEÆ, *Richard.*—(THE WATER-SHIELD TRIBE.)

This furnishes the BRASENIA PELTATA, *Pursh*, (Water-Shield,) at

\* From the Greek *pous*, a foot, and *phylon*, a leaf; the leaf resembling the foot of some birds.

† Named after Mr. Jefferson.

astringent demulcent in pectoral and bowel complaints. Plant abounds in mucilage, which possesses similar properties to the Irish moss, and might be substituted for it.

NELUMBIACEÆ, *Bartl.*—(SACRED-BEAN TRIBE.)

NELUMBIUM LUTEUM,\* *Wild.*, (Great Yellow Water-lily). The only plant furnished by this order in our state, is found in Big Sodus Bay, Lake Ontario. The rhizomes resemble those of the sweet potato, and are as farinaceous, agreeable and wholesome as the potato; found 12 to 18 inches below the surface of the earth, nutritious rather than medicinal; used as food by the Tartars and Indians; root contains large quantities of fecula.

NYPHEACEÆ, *Salisb.*—(POND-LILY TRIBE.)

NYPHEA ODORATA,† *Ait.*, (Great White Water-lily). Root or rhizome is used for dyeing a brown color; bitter to taste; powerfully astringent and tonic; contains much tannin and gallic acid; fresh root useful as a discutient poultice; forms a good injection in leucorrhœa, gonorrhœa, and dysentery, etc.; considered aphrodisiac by the ancients; a popular remedy in bowel complaints; and useful as a gargle in ulcerated sore-throat; one of the Thompsonian remedies.

NUPHAR LUTEA, *Smith*, (Yellow Pond-lily, small flowered).

NUPHAR ADVENA,‡ *Ait.*, (Common Yellow Pond-lily). These two species possess similar properties with the *nymphaea*, and may be employed in same cases; they should be further investigated. The *advena* is a popular tonic, and fresh root forms an excellent poultice when bruised; contains much starch. The roots of all the water lilies are edible; though somewhat acrid when raw, they are bland and nutritious when cooked; petioles and leaves are eaten for greens; leaves employed to dress blisters, cooling and emollient; flowers have proved successful in dysuria.

PAPAVARACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE POPPY TRIBE.)

Three species only furnished by this tribe in our state are medicinal.

SANGUINARIA|| *CANADENSE*, *Linn.*, (Blood Root). An acrid narcotic, acting as a powerful emetic, in doses of x. grs. of the powdered root, succeeded by burning heat of stomach, vertigo, prostration, etc. In small doses, deobstruent and expectorant; useful in chronic pulmo-

\* *Nelumbo*, the Ceylon name.

† From its inhabiting the water like the *nymphs*.

‡ The ancient name attached to it by Dioscorides.

|| From *sanguis*, blood.

nary and hepatic cases, and chronic rheumatism. It is too stimulating for acute attacks. Owing its powers to an alkaloid principle, *Sanguinarina*, discovered by the late Dr. Dana. Dose of powdered root, as expectorant, two to three grains; of tincture, gtt. x. to xxx.; we have known  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. prove fatal. To be used cautiously, and in combination with ipecac., antimony, or opiates.

PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM, *Linn.*, (Common Poppy), growing in waste grounds, scarcely naturalized. This is the opium poppy, too well known to need description here.

CHELIDONIUM MAJUS,\* *Linn.*, (Common Celandine). A very valuable plant, and altogether too much neglected. A stimulating aperient, diuretic, deobstruent and sudorific; useful in chronic, hepatic, and bronchial affections, and cutaneous diseases; also in scrofula. Externally, the fresh juice is used as a caustic to remove warts: also to stimulate old and indolent ulcers, and promote healthy granulations; also to remove specks from cornea, diluted with some bland fluid. Cataplasm of fresh leaves useful as an application in herpes and psora. Dose of dried root,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  j.; of fresh juice, 30 to 40 drops, with water; watery extract, five to ten grs.; vinous tincture,  $\frac{3}{4}$  j. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij.

#### FUMARIACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE FUMITORY TRIBE).

This order furnishes the common *fumatory*, FUMARIA OFFICINALIS,† the herbage of which is bitter, slightly diaphoretic and aperient. The juice was formerly administered in cutaneous diseases, and obstructions of the liver. The DICENTRA,‡ *Endl.*, CORYDALIS and ADLUMIA, *Raf.*, which formerly belonged to the above genus, are made distinct genera by Dr. Torrey, and they all possess similar properties. The common fumitory abounds in saline substances and bitter extractive. It is gently tonic; in large doses, laxative and diuretic; in smaller doses, alterative. A good remedy in visceral obstructions, particularly of the liver, and in scorbutic and cutaneous affections. Cullen gave the expressed juice  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij. in a day. It may be given in decoction of the acrid or fresh leaves, or in form of extract.

#### CRUCIFERÆ, *Juss.*

The CRUCIFEROUS TRIBE furnish several medicinal plants in this state, chiefly exotic, and possessing similar properties. NASTURTIUM PALUSTRE,|| *D. C.*, (Marsh Cress). N. HISPIDUM, *D. C.*, (Hispid

\* From *chelidon*, the Greek for swallow—as the plant flowers about the time this bird arrives in the spring.

† From *fumus*, smoke, in allusion to its smell.

‡ From *dis*, and *kentron*, a spur.

|| From *nasus tortus*, distorted nose; so named from its supposed effect in distorting the nasal muscles.

Cress). *N. NATANS*, (Floating Cress). *BARBAREA VULGARIS*, *R. Brown*. (Scurvy Grass). *TURRITUS STRIATA*,\* *Graham*, (Tower Mustard). *ARABIS HIRSUTA*, *Scop.*, (Hairy Wall-Cress). *A. DENTATA*, (Toothed Wall-Cress). *A. LYRATA*, *LEVIGATA*, and *CANADENSIS*. All anti-scorbutic, and useful in visceral obstructions. Some of them used as salad. The expressed juice may be given in doses of  $\frac{3}{4}$  j. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij.

We have three species of *CARDAMINE*,† or Bitter Cress, possessing same properties; also three species of *DENTARIA*, (Tooth-wort), of which the *Dyphilla*, (Pepper-wort), is well known for its pungent rhizoma, which is owing to a stimulating, evanescent, volatile principle.

*SYMBRIUM OFFICINALE*, *Scop.*, (Hedge Mustard); diuretic and expectorant, useful in chronic coughs, hoarseness, and ulceration of mouth and fauces. The juice may be mixed with honey or sugar, or the seeds taken in substance.

*SINAPIS NIGRA*, *Linn.*, (Black Mustard). A well-known stimulating condiment. *S. ARVENSIS*, (Wild Mustard), possessing similar properties.

*RAPHANUS*,‡ (The Radish).

#### VIOLACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE VIOLET TRIBE).

*VIOLA*, *Linn.* Of thirty-three species of this genus in the United States, fifteen are found in this state;|| some of them possessing valuable medicinal properties. Of these the most important are the *ODORATA*, *PEDATA*, *SAGITTATA*, *TRICOLOR*, and *CUCULLATA*. The roots of most of these species are emetic and purgative, in about the same doses as *Ipecac.*, for which they have been proposed as a substitute. Their active properties are owing to a peculiar principle, *violine*, closely allied to *emetine*, in composition and action. A syrup, made of the flowers of the violet, is a very mild and pleasant laxative for infants and young children.

The *V. PEDATA*, *Linn.*, is one of our most useful expectorants and demulcents. The *Tricolor*, *Linn.*, is a good depurative and alterative, and highly useful in nephritic, cutaneous, and other chronic affections. The herbaceous parts of all the species are mucilaginous, emollient, and slightly laxative, and the roots of all are expectorant, as they contain more or less of the active principle, *violine*. (*V. Pedata Off.*, *U. S.*

\* From *turris*, a tower—from the pyramidal form of the plant.

† From the Greek, *cardia*, heart, and *damao*, to fortify, from its supposed power in strengthening the heart.

‡ From *ra*, quickly, and *phainomai*, to appear; from its speedy germination.

|| These are the following, viz.: *Pedata*, *Palmata*, *Cucullata*, *Selkirkii*, *Sagittata*, *Rotundifolia*, *Blanda*, *Mimulæfolia*, *Lanceolata*, *Striata*, *Muhlenberghii*, *Rostrata*, *Pubescens*, *Canadensis*, *Tricolor*.

P.) For a full account of their medicinal properties, see *N. Y. Jour. of Med.*, vol. vii., by Dr. Williams, (p. 321). Dr. W. has used the infusion of the *V. OVATA*, internally, and fomentations of the plant externally, successfully, in cases of chronic affections of the eyes, which had resisted the use of all other medicines. He states that this species yield a larger quantity of mucilage than any of the others, and hence is much used in dysentery, diarrhœa, strangury, and other affections of urinary organs.

HYPERICACEÆ.—(THE ST. JOHN'S-WORT TRIBE.)

This order yields us eight species of *HYPERICUM*, some of which possess active medicinal properties. The *Perforatum*, *Linn.*, or common St. John's-wort, was introduced from Europe. It has a peculiar balsamic odor, which is developed by rubbing the plant. Taste bitter resinous and astringent. The flowers tinge spirits and oil of a fine, purple color, and the dried plant, boiled with alum, dyes wool of a yellow color. The flowers impart a fine yellow to water, and some say redden alcohol and the fixed oils. Chief constituents, volatile oil, resin, tannin, and coloring matter. The flowers are astringent, and form a popular remedy for wounds and bruises. Dr. Wood considers the properties of the plant analagous to those of the turpentine. Used by the common people in a great variety of complaints. Its exact value not known.

The *H. Corrymbosum*, *Muhl.*, has black dots and lines, which are minute vesicles filled with an intense purple coloring matter, partially soluble in water, but wholly in alcohol. It is allied to the coloring principle of logwood, and formed from the materials of the pellucid vesicles, by the action of oxygen.

CARYOPHYLLACEÆ, *Juss.*

The PINK TRIBE yields the different species of Chick-weed and Sand-wort, some of which form excellent external emollient applications, but possess no active properties. The *SILENE PENNSYLVANICA*, *Mich.*, and *VIRGINIANA*, *Linn.*, (Wild Pink), have some reputation as anthelmintics. The *SAPONARIA*\* *OFFICINALIS*, *Linn.*, (Soap-wort,) also belongs to this order. Contains a peculiar brown extractive matter, called *saponin*, which forms thirty-four per cent. of the dried root. The plant owes its medicinal properties to this principle, as well as its property of forming a lather like soap, when agitated with water, (see Wood and Bache). A valuable alterative, and may be used with much benefit in venereal and scrofulous affections, cutaneous diseases, and visceral obstructions. Some physicians deem it superior to sarsapa-

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\* From the Latin, *sapo*, soap, its mucilage having been used for that purpose.

rilla, in form of decoction or extract. The decoction should be given in quantity of from two to four pints daily, or the inspissated juice in doses of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. in 24 hours. The *Saponine* is doubtless allied to the active constituent of sarsaparilla, *sarsaparillin*.

STELLARIA\* MEDIA, *Smith*, (Common Chick-weed). A useful demulcent for poultices.

#### MALVACEÆ, *Juss.*

The MALLOWS TRIBE furnish several good demulcents, as they all abound, more or less, in mucilage. Of these the most important are the MALVA SYLVESTRIS, (or common Mallows), and the ALTHEREA † OFFICINALIS, *Linn.*, (Marsh Mallow), both of which are usefully employed in catarrhal, dysenteric, and nephritic complaints, and wherever mucilages are indicated; also form good cataplasms in external inflammation. A conserve of marsh mallows is one of the best demulcents, in irritation and inflammation of the respiratory organs.

Three species of HIBISCUS, belong to this order, one of which, *H. Virginicus*, (Sweating weed), has some valuable properties.

#### LINACEÆ, *De Cand.*

The FLAX TRIBE embrace both the wild, LINUM VIRGINIANUM, *Linn.*, and the cultivated flax, L. USITATISSIMUM, *Linn.* Useful as demulcents and in the arts.

#### GERANIACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE GERANIUM TRIBE.)

GERANIUM ‡ MACULATUM, *Linn.*, (Spotted Crane's bill). A powerful astringent, equal to Kino and Rhatany; used in secondary stages of bowel complaints, and in passive hemorrhages. A decoction of it in milk, a popular remedy in cholera infantum; useful as a wash and gargle in aphthous affections of the mouth, and ulcerations of fauces and tonsils; may be employed with advantage wherever pure astringents are indicated; used in powder, tincture, extract, and decoction. Contains gallic acid, tannin, mucilage, amadin, red coloring matter, resin, and a peculiar crystallizable principle. Might be substituted for foreign astringents.

Besides this species, we have the G. CAROLINIANUM, *Linn.*, PUSILLUM, *Linn.*, and ROBERTIANUM, *Linn.*, all of which are more or less astringent and diuretic. Griffith says they have been found useful in diseases of the kidneys and bladder.||

\* From *stella*, a star, in allusion to the shape of its flower.

† From the Greek, *alho*, to cure.

‡ From *geranos*, a crane, the pointed fruit resembling the bill of that bird.

|| Medical Botany, p. 211.

OXALIACEÆ, *De Cand.*

The WOOD-SORREL TRIBE furnishes us with three species of OXALIS;\* the O. ACETOSELLA, *Linn.*, (common Wood Sorrel), O. VIOLACA, *Linn.*, (Violet Wood Sorrel), O. STRIATA, *Linn.*, (Yellow Wood Sorrel); all of which have a pleasant acid flavor, and may be used as refrigerants. The expressed juice of the common wood sorrel yields, when purified and evaporated, crystals of binoxalate of potash, formerly sold under the name of *Salt of Sorrel*, for the purpose of removing ink-stains from linen.

This plant is a good antiscorbutic, and the juice forms a cooling drink in febrile complaints; when boiled with milk, it forms a very agreeable and pleasant whey. The plant is a popular remedy as an external application in cases of cancer; but often does harm by causing irritation and ulceration.

BALSAMINACEÆ, *A. Richard.*—(THE BALSAM TRIBE.)

IMPATIENS† PALLIDA, (Touch-me-not, Snap-weed). IM. FULVA, Balsam weed, Jewel weed). Emetic, cathartic, diaphoretic, and diuretic; have an acrid burning taste. An ointment made by boiling the recent plants in lard, is useful in piles. The flowers may be used for dyeing yellow. Well known plants, which deserve further trials.

ANACARDIACEÆ, *R. Brown.*—(THE CASHEW TRIBE.)

Yields the different species of RHUS, viz.: RHUS‡ TYPHINA, *Linn.*, GLABRA, COPALLINA, VENENATA, TOXICODENDRON, and AROMATICA; all of which are found in New-York, and the order contains no other genus in the state. The VENENATA (poison sumach) is remarkable for its poisonous properties, although many persons are not susceptible to it. The symptoms caused by it are itching, redness, and tumefaction, succeeded by heat, pain, vesication, and fever. The best applications are a solution of borax or acet. lead. This species not used in medicine. R. GLABRA, *Linn.*, (Smooth Sumach). Officinal part, the berries, though the bark and leaves are astringent, and used in tanning leather and in dyeing. Excrescences are produced under the leaves, containing large quantities of tannin and gallic acid; might be substituted for oak-galls. The berries contain malic acid, to which they owe their sour taste; are astringent and refrigerant; used as a cooling drink in fevers, and a gargle in ulceration and inflammation of the throat. The inner bark of the root is used for same purpose; useful as a wash in mercurial salivation.

\* From the Greek, *oxys*, sharp, or sour.

† Named in allusion to the sudden bursting of the seed vessels.

‡ From the Greek, *rhoas*, red, from the color of the fruit.

**RHUS TOXICODENDRON**, *Linn.*, (Poison Oak, Poison Ivy). The *radicans* is a variety of this species; its medical properties resemble those of the *nux vomica*; acts upon the motor tract of the spinal cord; hence has been used in paralysis; also in rheumatism and cutaneous diseases, as an alterative. Dose of powder, gr. ss., gradually increased till some effect is produced. The active principle is so volatile that it cannot be given in decoction or extract. The juice is yellowish and milky; becomes permanently black on exposure to air, and when applied to linen or cotten forms an indelible dye, not subject to fade, nor eradicable by chemical agents. All vegetables which possess poisonous properties contain a similar principle of a peculiar character. All the plants belonging to the above order have a resinous, gummy, or milky caustic juice, though their fruit is often edible and pleasant. The West India *Mango* belongs to it.

XANTHOXYLACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE PRICKLY ASH TRIBE).

**ZANTHOXYLUM\*** *AMERICANUM*, *Mill.*, (common Prickly Ash). This well-known shrub possesses medicinal properties almost identical with those of the *mezereon* and *guaic.*, and might often be substituted for them in the same complaints, with advantage. Stimulant, diaphoretic, deobstruent; used chiefly in chronic rheumatism and cutaneous diseases. Dose of powder, gr. x. to ʒj.; *decoction*, boil ʒj. of bark in O.ijj. water to one quart, and give from ʒiv. to ʒxij. in a day. Contains a peculiar crystallizable principle, *xanthoxylin*, to which its virtues are owing. Besides this, it contains fixed oil, resin, gum, and coloring matter. The whole plant is endowed with active properties, though the bark only is officinal. This is acrid, pungent and aromatic.

**PTELEA†** *TRIFOLIATA*, *Linn.*, (Swamp Dog-wood, Stinking Ash). A strong infusion of the leaves and young shoots of this plant, are said by Schœpf, to be anthelmintic; the fruit is aromatic and bitter, and forms a good substitute for hops.

HIPPOCASTINACEÆ, *De Cand.*

The HORSE CHESTNUT TRIBE furnishes us but one genus, the *ÆSCALUS HIPPOCASTINUM*, (Horse Chesnut), a native of Asia, but cultivated as a shade tree, both in this country and Europe. Fruit and bark have been used in medicine. The former abounds in starch, but has a rough, disagreeable, bitter taste; of which it may be deprived by maceration in an alkaline solution. The starch is readily separated, and equal at least to that obtained from the potato. The powdered kernel of the fruit is a useful sternutory, in diseases of the head and

\* From the Greek, *xanthos*, yellow, and *xylon*, wood.

† The Greek name of the Elm, from *ptao*, to fly, in allusion to the winged seed vessels.

eyes. The bark of the branches, from three to five years old, collected in the spring, has been successfully employed as a substitute for Cinchona. It contains bitter extractive and tannin, which are taken up by boiling water, and to which it owes its astringent and tonic properties. Given in intermittents, etc., in substance, decoction and infusion, in the same manner and doses as the Peruvian bark.

CELASTRACEÆ, *R. Brown.*

The SPINDLE TREE TRIBE furnish several valuable medicinal plants in New-York, among which are, the

CELASTRUS SCANDENS, (Bitter Sweet). The bark, emetic, discutient, anti-syphilitic, slightly narcotic, has valuable alterative properties, and is a popular remedy in hepatic affections. Deserves further investigation. Torrey states that the plant is "narcotic and stimulating, and employed as a domestic medicine in the western states."

EUONYMUS\* ATROPURPUREUS, *Jacq.*, (Burning Bush, sometimes called *Wahoo*,) though the same name is given to the *ear-leaved Magnolia*, and the *Ulmus alata*.†

EUONYMUS AMERICANUS, *Linn.*, (Strawberry Tree).

The seeds of both species of this shrub, are emetic and purgative; the bark a very efficient alterative. A quack preparation, in which the first species forms the principal ingredient, under the name of *Wahoo*, has considerable repute, in this state, in the cure of many chronic diseases, where a depurative alterative is indicated. We believe the tree has valuable deobstruent properties, which entitle it to the attention of the profession generally.

RHAMNACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE BUCK-THORN TRIBE.)

RHAMNUS‡ CATHARTICUS, (Common Buck-thorn). This is found in the highlands of this state, and naturalized in many places, (*Eaton's Manual*). A shrub seven or eight feet high; berries, officinal; their odor is unpleasant, taste bitter, acrid, and nauseous. Contain a peculiar coloring matter, acetic acid, mucilage, sugar, a peculiar principle, *rhamnin*, and a nitrogenous substance. The berries and expressed juice actively purgative; apt to cause nausea and griping, with much thirst and dryness of mouth; chiefly useful as hydragogue cathartic in

\* From *Euonyma*, mother to the Furies; in allusion to the injurious effects produced by the fruit of this plant.

† The Trees of America, native and foreign, by D. J. Browne. Harpers: New York, 1846.

‡ From the Greek, *rhamnus*, a branch.

dropsy. The *syrup* is the best form of giving it. This is often made, in this city, of the berries of the *Cratægus*. We have another species, *R. Alnifolius*, growing in swamps in the northern parts of the state, whose berries have similar properties.

CEANOTHUS AMERICANUS, *Linn.*, (New Jersey Tea). The leaves of this shrub were used for tea, during the revolutionary war. Root slightly bitter and astringent; imparts a red color to water; a useful alterative, in syphilis, hepatic, and cutaneous diseases; has been employed with success in dysentery, in the form of strong infusion of the leaves; forms a valuable local application in apthous affections of the mouth and fauces. Ferriën states that a strong decoction of it cures gonorrhœa in two or three days, (Griffith). The Indians use it as a febrifuge, as well as an astringent. We regard it as a valuable article.

#### VITACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE VINE TRIBE.)

The VINE TRIBE of our state yields four indigenous species. These are VITIS LABRUSCA, *Linn.*, (Fox Grape); V. ÆSTIVALIS, *Michx.* (Summer Grape); V. CORDIFOLIA, *Michx.*, (Frost Grape); V. RIPARIA, *Michx.*, (Winter Grape). It is said by Mr. Adlum, that there are 200 varieties of the wild grape in the United States. Rafinesque has described forty-one indigenous species. The *Fox* grape is about three-fourths of an inch in diameter, globose, usually dark purple, when ripe, sometimes amber-colored, or greenish-white, of a strong musky odor, and somewhat rancid taste, filled with a tough pulp. The *Isabella*, *Schuylkill*, or *Alexanders*, the *Catawba*, and *Bland's* grape, are varieties of this species. The berries of the *Summer* grape are about one-fourth of an inch in diameter, globose, deep blue, or almost black, of a pleasant flavor. The berries of the *Frost* grape are about one-fourth of an inch in diameter, nearly black when mature, very acerb, but pleasant after having been frozen. The *Winter* grapes are about one-fourth of an inch in diameter, and dark purple or amber-color when ripe. When ripe these, like other grapes, possess valuable medicinal properties, being wholesome, antiseptic, cooling, diuretic and laxative, and prove beneficial in many diseases. Thus we have what is called the *Grape cure* in Germany, which consists in confining patients with chronic diseases entirely to a diet of grapes. Palatable wines may also be made of our indigenous grapes, possessing the same medicinal qualities as those of foreign wines.

#### POLYGALACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE MILK-WORT TRIBE.)

The plants of this, like many of the other natural orders, differ con-

siderably in their medicinal properties. Some are bitter and tonic ; some emetic, purgative and diuretic ; some are merely emetic, others are diuretic and sudorific ; while others still are poisonous. *POLYGALA*\* *SENEGA*, *Linn.*, the *Seneca Snake Root* is a not uncommon plant in this state, in dry rocky woods, and flowering from May to July. Expectorant, emetic, sudorific, diuretic, emmenagogue, cathartic, diaphoretic, etc., according to dose and manner of administration ; most valuable as an expectorant in croup, and other pulmonary affections. In amenorrhœa, it proves most useful in recent cases. The Senega contains two peculiar acids, the *Polygalic* and the *Virgineic*, on which its virtues depend. (*Quevenne, in Jour. de Pharm.* xxii.)

*POLYGALA SANGUINEA*, *Linn.*, (Purple Milk-wort). According to Dr. B. S. Barton, this species possesses the same medicinal properties as the former, and may be used in the same cases. We have never tested it.

*POLYGALA PAUCIFOLIA*, according to Rafinesque, has active properties ; the root having a sweet, pungent, and aromatic taste, while, like the Senega, it is stimulant, sudorific, expectorant, etc., but milder in its action than the latter plant ; used in warm infusion and decoction. Dr. Griffith says that the root appears to have the properties of a tonic and bitter, similar to the *P. amara* and *P. rubella*, and that his observations do not agree with those of Rafinesque. (*Med. Botany*, p. 227.)

#### LEGUMINOSÆ, *Linn.*—(THE BEAN TRIBE.)

*VICIA*, four species, two exotic and two indigenous. Cultivated in Europe as herbage for cattle, under the names of *Winter* and *Summer Tare*.

*PHASEOLUS*, † *Linn.*, (Kidney Bean). Three wild indigenous species. *PERENNIS* ; *DIVERSIFOLIUS* ; *HELVOLUS*. *PH. VULGARIS*, *Linn.*, (Kidney Bean, Pole Bean). *LUNATUS*, (Lima Bean). Cultivated for the table. Less nutrient and flatulent than peas, and the ordinary white beans. Chiefly employed in the young and green state of their legumina. The substance, when boiled, is of the oleraceous kind ; but though sweeter and more nutrient than these, is still tender and easily digested.

*APIOS*, † *Boerh.*, (Ground Nut). *TUBEROSA*. (Sometimes called Wild

\* From the Greek *poly*, much, and *gala*, milk ; from its supposed power of increasing the secretion of milk.

† Latin *phaseolus*, a little boat, from the shape of the legumes.

‡ Greek *apios*, a pear—form of root.

Bean). Root produces fleshy *tubers*, about the size of chesnuts, which are esculent and nutritious, for which the plant is supposed worthy of culture. Legume about two inches long.

**AMPHICARPEA\* MONOICA**, *Torr. and Gr.*, (Common Hog Nut). A very curious plant. Root fibrous and branching. Nutritious. Annually producing numerous small subterraneous flowers. (Torrey.)

**ROBINIA PSEUDACACIA**, *Linn.*, (Common Locust Tree). The inner bark is sometimes used for emetic purposes. The wood is one of the most valuable for many purposes in the arts. When newly cut, it weighs 63 pounds 3 ounces to a cubic foot; when dry, 46 pounds. The wood is remarkable for strength and durability; hence much employed in ship-building, and for posts, and underground structures. The tree is very apt to be destroyed by the *Clytus Pictus*, and the *Carsus Robinia*, (Locust-tree Carpenter Moth). (See *Peck*, in *Mass. Agricult. Rep. and Jour.*, Vol. V.) The leaves are a good substitute for grass and clover as provender for cattle, for which it is cultivated, and mown every year; also branches cut off every other year, when it has attained the height of ten feet. This is done at mid-summer, when succulent, and dried for winter's use. The *roots* are very sweet, and afford an extract which might be substituted for liquorice. The flowers have been employed medicinally as antispasmodic, and distilled into an agreeable, refreshing syrup, which is drank with water, to quench thirst. The flowers retain their fragrance when dried, and those of a single tree are sufficient to perfume a whole garden.

**ZEPHROSIA† VIRGINIANA**, *Pers.*, (Goat's Rue). An infusion of the root is a very popular vermifuge.

**TRIFOLIUM**, *Linn.*, five species. **ARVENSE**, (Stone Clover). **PRA-TENSE**, *Linn.*, (Red Clover). **REFLEXUM**, *Linn.*, (Buffalo Clover). **REPENS**, *Linn.*, (White Clover). **AGRARIUM**, (Yellow Clover). The *Pratense* is well known as a most valuable fodder plant, making the best sort of hay, either by itself or mixed with other grasses. Probably a biennial. The *Reflexum* affects the salivary glands, and is common in the Western States. The *Repens* also acts powerfully on the salivary glands, sometimes producing complete salivation. (Elliot.)

**MELILOTUS OFFICINALIS**, *Willd.*, (Yellow Melilot). When dry, this plant has an agreeable odor, much like that of the sweet-scented vernal grass. Said to be the chief ingredient used for flavoring the *Gruyère cheese*. Three species. Formerly included among emollients, but contains very little mucilage.

\* From *amphi*, on both sides, and *carpos*, fruit, producing fruit both above and below ground.

† From the Greek *zephros*, ash-colored.

**GENISTA\* TINCTORIA**, *Linn.*, (Dyer's Green-weed). An exotic. The plant yields a coloring matter that is used for dyeing wool yellow. It has also been employed in medicine as a diuretic and mild purgative. The seeds are emetic and cathartic, in doses of ʒj. to ʒij. ; also diuretic and useful in dropsy.

**BAPTISIA† TINCTORIA**, *R. Brown*, (Wild Indigo). An indigenous, perennial plant. Medicinal properties reside chiefly in the cortical portion of the root. In large doses emetic and cathartic, in smaller mildly laxative. Said to be useful in scarlet fever, typhus fever, and that state of the system which attends gangrene ; also externally to ulcers. The plant yields a quantity of coarse Indigo, resembling the *fig blue*.

**CASSIA MARILANDICA**, *Linn.*, (American Senna). A well-known cathartic. Taste slightly nauseous, leaves contain resin, extractive, and a volatile oil, equal to foreign, only requiring a larger quantity.

**CERCIS CANADENSIS**, *Linn.*, (Red-Bud, or American Judas Tree). Niagara county. The flowers are acid, and used by the French Canadians for salads and pickles.

**GYMNOCLADUS‡ CANADENSIS**, *Linn.*, (Coffee Tree). Trunk thirty to fifty feet high, one foot or more in diameter ; branches few and thick ; *bark* bitter and acrid ; leaves one to three feet long ; legume six-ten inches long, two inches broad ; seeds half an inch in diameter. On Seneca and Cayuga lakes. According to Michaux, the wood of this tree is well suited to cabinet-making, and its strength renders it proper for building. Like the locust, it has the power of rapidly converting its sap into perfect wood. Much esteemed as an ornamental tree.

#### ROSACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE ROSE TRIBE.)

**PRUNUS§ AMERICANA**, *Marshall*, (Red Plum, Yellow Plum.) A tree eight to ten feet high, fruit half an inch in diameter, oval or nearly globose, mostly reddish-orange when ripe, with a juicy yellow pulp, and a thick tough skin. Palatable when cultivated, but rather acerb in a wild state.

**PRUNUS MARATIMA**, *Wang.*, (Beach Plum, Sand Plum). Two to five feet high ; fruit usually purple, and sometimes crimson ; two varie-

\* From the Celtic *gen*, a small bush.

† From the Greek *bapto*, to dye, some of the plants yielding a coloring matter, like indigo.

‡ From *gymnos*, naked, and *klados*, branch—its branches are few and large.

§ The Latin name for plum.

ties ; one has fruit often an inch in diameter, and somewhat oval ; the fruit of the other is the size of a small cherry. When fully ripe agreeably flavored, but mostly acerb and astringent. Sold in N. York market under the name of *Beach Plum*. Both species laxative and nutritious. The pulp might make a useful addition to cathartic decoctions, or be used in preparing laxative confections. (*Off. Prep. Pruni Pulpa, U. S. P.*)

*CERASUS\* PUMILA, Michx.*, (Sand Cherry). Stem, trailing ; two to three feet long ; fruit small, dark-red, eatable. Rare.

*C. PENNSYLVANICA, Loisel.* (Bird Cherry). Tree twenty to twenty-five feet high ; fruit, size of a large pea, red, austere, scarcely eatable.

*C. VIRGINIANA, De Cand.*, (Choke Cherry). A shrub or small tree. Fruit, size of a pea, bitter, astringent, scarcely eatable. Pulp forms a good astringent jelly in dysentery and diarrhœa.

*CERASUS VULGARIS, Mill.*, (Red or Sour Cherry, Morello Cherry). Extensively employed for pies and pastries. One of the most valuable varieties. Refrigerant, laxative, antiseptic. The juice forms a cooling drink in fevers ; is also nutritious. Cullen considers cherries as decidedly *sedative*, owing to the malic acid present.

*C. SEROTINA, De Cand.*, (Wild Cherry, Black Cherry). A well-known tree, erroneously called *C. Virginiana* by some writers. Bark only officinal. Taste agreeably bitter and aromatic. *Chem. comp.* Starch, tannin, resin, gallic acid and fatty matter, lignin, red coloring matter, salts of lime, potash and iron. Volatile oil and hydrocyanic acid are obtained from it by distillation, but they do not exist ready-formed in the bark, but result from the reaction of water upon *emulsin* and *amygdalin*, two of its constituents. These two peculiar principles are contained in distinct cells, in the seeds of the *Amygdalea*, and when the kernels are bruised, and especially when heat is applied, they immediately react on each other, and give rise to the formation of *prussic acid* and some other products. The wild cherry bark is one of our best tonics, as it combines sedative properties—the power of calming irritation and diminishing nervous excitability ; hence it is well adapted to cases of gastric debility, attended with general or local irritation ; lowers the action of the heart ; useful in latter stages of phthisis, hectic fever, atonic dyspepsia, nervous irritability ; intermittents, and convalescence from inflammatory and other diseases. Cold infusion is the best form of administration—syrup and powder also used. (See *Wood & Bache*, p. 578. *Off. Prep. Inf. Prun. Virg.*)

\* The name of a town in Asia, whence the Cherry originally came.

**SPIRÆA\* TOMENTOSA**, *Linn.*, (Hard Hack, Steeple Bush). A well-known plant; all parts medicinal; contains tannin, gallic acid, and bitter extractive. Medical properties, tonic and astringent; hence used in diarrhœa, cholera infantum, and general debility; more agreeable to the stomach than most other astringents. Given in decoction or extract—dose of former  $\frac{3}{4}$  i— $\frac{3}{4}$  ij., of latter 5 to 15 grains. The *S. Sali-cifolia*, (Queen of the Meadows,) has probably similar properties.

**GILLENIA TRIFOLIATA**, *Maench.*, (Indian Physic). G. STIPULACEA, *Nutt.*, (American Ipecacuanha). These two valuable plants grow in the western and southwestern counties of this State. Stem, herbaceous; root, perennial, and officinal. A very mild and efficient emetic and cathartic. In small doses, tonic and deobstruent—resembles ipecac. in its mode of operation, more than any other indigenous article. Dose of powdered root, 20 to 30 grains.

**GEUM† RIVALE**, *Linn.*, (Water Avens, Purple Avens). The root, a good tonic and powerful astringent; decoction, powder or extract; in passive hemorrhages, leucorrhœa, diarrhœa, dyspepsia, and the debility of phthisis pulmonalis. The root is a popular medicine made into a syrup, for "cleansing the blood." Also said to be used as a substitute for chocolate.

**SANGUISORBA‡ CANADENSIS**, (American Great Burnet). Tonic and astringent.

**AGRIMONIA§ EUPATORIA**, *Linn.*, (Common Agrimony). The herb and root. The former has a weak, but agreeable aromatic odor, and a rough, bitterish, aromatic taste; root more bitter and astringent; contains a volatile oil. A mild tonic and astringent, also deobstruent. Has been recommended in jaundice, uterine hemorrhage, visceral obstructions, and diseases of the skin; also as a gargle in affections of the throat. The Indians use it in fevers. Given in substance, infusion or decoction.

**POTENTILLA|| NORVEGICA**, *Linn.* **TRIDENTATA**, *Ait.* **CANADENSIS**, *Linn.* **ARGENTEA**, *Linn.* **ARGUTA**, *Pursh.* **FRUTICOSA**, *Linn.* **ANSERINA**, *Linn.* All these species of Cinquefoil are good mild astringents, and may be used with advantage where such remedies are indicated.

**FRAGARIA VIRGINIANA**, *Ehrh.*, (Wild Strawberry). The Strawberry deserves a place among medicinal, as well as dietetical plants.

\* The *speireia* of Theophrastus.

† From the Greek *geuma*, an agreeable flavor, the root being aromatic.

‡ From *sanguis*, blood, and *sorbes*, to absorb, because used to stop bleeding.

§ From the Greek *argeme*, cataract, which this plant was supposed to cure.

|| From the Latin *potens*, in allusion to its supposed medicinal properties.

The fruit is laxative, refrigerant, diuretic and sedative, and constitutes an excellent article of diet for invalids and convalescents. The root and leaves are mildly astringent.

RUBUS\* ODORATUS, *Linn.*, (Flowering Raspberry). R. TRIFLORUS, *Rich.*, (Dwarf Raspberry). STRIGOSUS, *Michx.*, (Red Wild Raspberry). OCCIDENTALIS, *Linn.*, (Black Raspberry). VILLOSUS, *Ait.*, (Common Blackberry). CANADENSIS, *Linn.*, (Dewberry, Low Blackberry). HISPIDUS, *Linn.*, (Running Swamp Blackberry). CUNEIFOLIUS, *Pursh*, (Sand Blackberry). The roots of all these species contain tannin, and are tonic and astringent. That of the *Villosus* is a favorite domestic remedy in bowel affections. The watery decoction sets well on the stomach, or it may be given boiled with milk or rennet whey,  $\frac{3}{4}$  i. of smaller roots boiled in a pint to half a pint, of which  $\frac{3}{4}$  i.— $\frac{3}{4}$  ij. are to be given three times a-day, in diarrhœa, chronic dysentery, etc. The berries, made into a jelly, form a good remedy in dysentery, and fresh are a healthy article of diet to invalids.

ROSA CAROLINA, *Linn.*, (Swamp Rose). R. LUCIDA, *Ehrh.*, (Dwarf Wild Rose). R. BLANDA, *Ait.*, (Early Wild Rose). R. RUBIGINOSA, *Linn.*, (Sweet Briar). The petals might be used to form a mild, laxative syrup, while the roots are moderately astringent. They should be further investigated.

CRATEGUS,† *Linn.*, (Thorn Tree). Five species. OXYACANTHA, *Linn.*, (Hawthorn). CRUS-GALLI, *Linn.*, (Cockspur Thorn). COCCINEA, (White Thorn). TOMENTOSA, *Linn.*, (Black Thorn). PUNCTATA, *Jacq.*, (Common Thorn). The fruit of some of these are edible. The bark is sometimes substituted for that of the *Rhamnus Cath.*, in making *Syrup of Buckthorn*. A useful shrub for making hedges.

PYRUS, *Linn.*, (Apple, Pear). P. CORONARIA, (Crab Apple). Fruit yellowish-green, hard, very acid and fragrant. Juice forms a good gargle in sore throat.

PYRUS ARBUTIFOLIA, *Linn.*, (Chokeberry). A shrub; fruit, size of a large whortleberry. Sweetish, but very astringent. Two varieties, one *white*, the other *black*.

#### LYTHRACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE LOOSE STRIFE TRIBE.)

LYTHRUM HYSSOPIFOLIA and SALICARIA, *Linn.*, (Purple Loose Strife). Contains tannin and much mucilage, hence astringent and demulcent; popular in dysentery and diarrhœa.

\* From the Celtic *rub*, red, the color of the fruit in many of the species.

† From the Greek *kratos*, strength, in allusion to the wood.

ONAGRACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE EVENING PRIMROSE TRIBE.)

*CENOTHERA BIENNIS*, *Linn.* *FRUTICOSA*, *Linn.* *LINEARIS*, *Michx.* *CHRYSANTHA*, *Michx.* *PUMILA*, *Linn.*, (Evening Primrose, Cure-all, etc.). The *Biennis* is chiefly used in medicine. Bark and leaves mucilaginous, slightly acrid. Dr. Griffith states that he has cured infantile eruptions, as tetter, with a decoction of this plant, when all other means had failed. (*Med. Bot.* p. 304.) He directs a strong decoction, with which the parts affected are to be bathed several times a day. Forms a good emollient in ulcers.

*LYTHRUM HYSSOPIFOLIA*, *Linn.*, (Common Purple Loose Strife). The whole plant demulcent and astringent; useful in diarrhœa and chronic dysentery. Decoction of the root ( $\frac{3}{4}$  i. to O. j.) the best form of exhibition, in doses of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij., three times a day. A useful remedy.

CACTACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE CACTUS TRIBE)

*OPUNTIA VULGARIS*, *Mill.*, (Prickly Pear). Common around New-York and on Long Island. Fruit two inches long. A rubefacient and vesicant.

GROSSULACEÆ, *De Can.*—(THE CURRANT TRIBE.)

*RIBES*, (Currant and Gooseberry). Five species. *CYNOSBATI*, (Prickly Gooseberry.) *ROTUNDIFOLIUM*, (Round-leaved Gooseberry). *LACUSTRE*, (Swamp Gooseberry). *FLORIDUM*, (Wild Black Currant). *PROSTRATUM*, (Fetid Currant). Currant juice is laxative, refrigerant and antiseptic. Its wine contains 20 per cent. of alcohol. The black currant is astringent.

## SAXIFRAGACEÆ.—(THE SAXIFRAGE TRIBE.)

*HEUCHERA AMERICANA*, (Common Alum Root). A powerful astringent. An extract from the roots of this plant, would probably be equal to that of the Rhatany or Catechu. The basis of some of the *cancer* powders of empirics. Employed by the Indians as an application to wounds and ulcers.

HAMAMELACEÆ, *R. Brown.*—(WITCH HAZEL TRIBE.)

*HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA*, *Linn.*, (Witch Hazel). The bark of this plant has a bitter, astringent, somewhat sweetish and pungent taste. Is employed by the Indians as a sedative and discutient to painful tumors, and external inflammations. It is a popular remedy in the shape of a poultice or decoction, in hemorrhoidal and ophthalmic affections; also infusion of leaves in bowel complaints and hemorrhages. Seeds are edible, like the hazelnut. Deserves further trials. Erroneously supposed to have the power of indicating water and ores.

CRASSULACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE HOUSE LEEK TRIBE.)

SEDUM, *Linn.*, (Stone Crop). P. TELEPHIUM, *Linn.*, (Orpine or Live-for-ever). An astringent demulcent. A popular remedy in dysentery and hemoptysis; also as a vulnerary. Formerly employed externally to cicatrize wounds.

UMBELLIFERÆ, *Juss.*—(THE UMBELLIFEROUS TRIBE.)

This well-known order furnishes many medicinal plants, differing, however, in their properties. They are all furnished with a volatile oil or balsam; which, in the fruit, is lodged in longitudinal canals (*vitæ*) in the carpels; some furnish gum-resins, and a few are pervaded in every part with an alkaloid, acro-narcotic principle. Many species are used as articles of food, and still more are medicinal.

SANICULA MARILANDICA, *Linn.*, (Long-styled Sanicle). S. CANADENSIS, *Linn.*, (Canadian Sanicle, Black-snake Root). Under which latter name they are employed as domestic medicines, as diaphoretic, stimulant and stomachic. They deserve further examination.

CICUTA MACULATA, *Linn.*, (Water Hemlock, Spotted Cowbane). Common in swamps. The most dangerous vegetable poison indigenous to the U. States, often mistaken by children for the root of *Sweet Sicily*, (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), called *Beaver Poison* and *Musquash* in the western part of the State. Causes the usual symptoms of the *acronarcotics*. The whole plant poisonous, but the root most active. Has a strong aromatic taste and odor, and the bark contains a yellowish, viscid juice. Seldom employed in practice, but is occasionally given as a sedative, and to relieve pain in scirrhus and cancer.

HERACLEUM LANATUM, *Michx.*, (Masterwort, Cow Parsnip). Root has a strong, disagreeable odor and acrid taste. The leaves and root stimulate the skin, when applied to it. Poisonous when growing in damp places. In medicine, it is stimulant and carminative. Has been used with success in epilepsy, attended with flatulence and gastric disorder. (*Thatcher's Dispensatory*.)

ARCHANGELICA ATROPURPUREA, (Common Angelica). The root contains bitter extractive, gum, an acrid soft resin, volatile oil, etc. An aromatic stimulant and tonic. *Vitæ* filled with a pungent and rather disagreeable aromatic oil. A popular aromatic tonic and carminative, used in flatulent colic and cardialgia. The stems are sometimes candied as sweetmeats. In a recent state, the root is acrid, and said to be poisonous.

DAUCUS CAROTA, *Linn.*, (Wild Carrot). An indigenous plant. A very powerful diuretic. A strong decoction, drunk freely, very useful in nephritic complaints, and in the passage of urinary calculi. For

Travel, the patient should drink copiously of a strong infusion, warm. A useful remedy.

**CONIUM\*** MACULATUM, *Linn.*, (Poison Hemlock). The leaves and seed contain resin, extractive, gum, albumen, a green fecula, saline matters, and two volatile substances; one an *oil*, on which the odor of the plant depends; the other an alkaline principle, *conia*, *conine*, *conicine*, etc. This is the active principle of the plant, and is a colorless oily liquid, lighter than water, and causing death almost as soon as hydrocyanic acid. (See *Wood & Bache*.) Narcotic, without being decidedly stimulant or sedative to the circulation. Generally believed to possess anodyne, antispasmodic, antiprodisiac, deobstruent and diuretic properties. Has no curative virtues in scirrhus or cancer, though decidedly palliative.

**PANAX** QUINQUEFOLIUM, *Linn.*, (Common Ginseng). A favorite article among the Chinese, forming an ingredient in nearly all their prescriptions; formerly exported in large quantities to Canton, from this country. The root, which is fleshy, and spindle-shaped, has a feeble odor, and a sweet, slightly aromatic taste, like liquorice. Has no other medicinal properties than those of a mild and pleasant demulcent.

**CORNUS†** FLORIDA, *Linn.*, (Common Dogwood). A valuable tonic and astringent; its properties closely resemble those of the Peruvian bark. Has been used with success in intermittent and typhoid fevers. May be given in powder, decoction, or extract. *Decoct.*, official.

**C. ALTERNIFOLIA**, *Linn.*, (Alternate-leaved Dogwood). The bark of this species forms one of the *Shaker medicines*; is diaphoretic, tonic and astringent.

**C. CIRCINATA**, *Linn.*, (Round-leaved Dogwood). Possesses similar virtues to the *Florida*, used in same way; taste bitter, astringent and aromatic. The late Dr. Ives used an infusion made by pouring O. j. boiling water on to  $\frac{3}{4}$  j. of the coarsely-powdered bark. Dose  $\frac{3}{4}$  j. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij.

**C. SERICEA**, *Linn.*, (Swamp Dogwood). Possesses similar virtues to the above species. The same remark will apply to the *C. Paniculata*.

**PASTINACA SATIVA**, *Linn.*, (Common or Wild Parsnip). Esculent.

**OSMORHIZA LONGISTYLIS**, *De Can.*, (Sweet Sicily). A very pleasant carminative. Children often mistake the *Cicuta* for it.

To these indigenous plants may be added various cultivated exotics, as **CARUM**, (Caraway). **FENICULUM**, (Fennel). **ANETHUM**, (Dill).

\* The *koneion* of Theophrastus, from *konos*, a cone or top, whose whirling motion resembles the giddiness produced by this plant.—*Hooker*.

† From the Latin, *cornus*, horn, from the hardness of the wood.

CUMINUM, (Cumin). CORIANDRUM, (Coriander,) etc. All useful carminatives, and some of them employed in domestic economy.

ARALIACEÆ, *Juss.*

ARALIA RACEMOSA, *Linn.*, (Spikenard). The root and leaves are in great repute as aromatic tonics. Usually taken in form of tincture.

A. NUDICAULIS, *Linn.*, (Wild Sarsaparilla). A well-known medicinal plant, possessing gently stimulating and diaphoretic properties. A decided alterative, and useful in rheumatic, syphilitic, and cutaneous diseases. Prepared and given in the same manner as the genuine sarsaparilla.

A. SPINOSA, (Angelica Tree, Toothache Tree). Cultivated in gardens as an ornamental shrub. A stimulant diaphoretic. An infusion of recent root, emetic and cathartic; used with advantage in chronic rheumatism and cutaneous affections.

ARABIA HISPIDA, *Michx.*, (Wild Elder). A valuable diuretic in dropsies, in decoction. (*Peck*, in *Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*, xix., 117.)

SUB-CLASS II.—MONOPETALOUS EXOGENOUS PLANTS.

CAPRIFOLIACEÆ.—(THE HONEYSUCKLE TRIBE.)

TRIOSTEUM PERFOLIATUM, *Linn.*, (Feverwort, Horse Gentian). Cathartic, emetic, and diuretic. Powdered bark of root most active; in doses of 20 grs. acts as cathartic, 30 to 40 emetic. Its active properties are taken up by water and alcohol. Extract purges in doses of 10 grs.; 5 lbs. of the root produces 2 lbs. of extract. Leaves are diaphoretic. The hard seeds have been used as a substitute for coffee. This plant deserves further trials. (See *Wood and Bache*, p. 721.)

SAMBUCUS NIGRA, *Linn.*, (Common Elder). Inner bark aperient and deobstruent, also emetic in large doses. Infusion of flowers diaphoretic. Elder ointment is a soothing application to ulcers, burns, etc. The berries furnish a juice, which diluted with water, forms a cooling and laxative drink in fevers. Wine of the berries is an excellent cordial, much used in domestic practice.

VIBURNUM PRUNIFOLIUM, *Linn.*, (Black Haw-Sloe). Fruit one-third of an inch long, bluish black, and slightly glaucous when mature. The fruit, when mature, is sweetish and esculent.

V. LENTAGO, *Linn.*, (Sweet Viburnum). A tree 15–20 feet high. Fruit rather larger than the preceding species, bluish black, with a glaucous bloom; the pulp thin and sweetish. The fruit is sweet and esculent after the action of frost.

V. DENTATUM, *Linn.*, (Arrow Wood). 10 to 12 feet high, used by

the aborigines for making arrows—also for *fuse-sticks* in blasting, the pith having been removed.

V. PAUCIFLORUM, *Syl.*, (Mountain Bark Cranberry). From two to four feet high, fruit roundish oval, compressed, red.—Mountains of Essex county.

V. OPULUS, *Linn.*, (Bush Cranberry, High Cranberry). From 3 to 10 feet high. The fruit is acid, half an inch long, juicy, slightly bitter, translucent when dry, used as a substitute for cranberries. Common *snow-ball* is a variety of this species.

RUBIACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE MADDER TRIBE.)

GALIUM\* APARINE, *De Can.*, (Common Cleavers or Goose Grass). An annual succulent plant, inodorous, has a bitterish and somewhat acrid taste. Expressed juice aperient, diuretic, antiscorbutic; has been used in dropsy, congestion of spleen, scrofula, and scorbutic eruptions;  $\frac{3}{4}$  iij. of the juice twice a day; also used as an ointment to scrofulous swellings. We have several other species of galium possessing the same medicinal properties. Probably one of our most valuable diuretics, highly useful in suppression of urine and nephritic complaints; has considerable popular reputation in scorbutus and hemoptysis; also in gonorrhœa and inflammatory affections of the kidneys; cold infusion should always be employed, drank freely.

CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS, *Linn.*, (Button-bush, Pond Dogwood). Tonic and deobstruent. Deserves further trial.

MITCHELLA REPENS, *Linn.*, (Partridge Berry). Berries one-third of an inch in diameter; edible, but insipid. Slightly diuretic and alterative.

VALERIANACEÆ.—(THE VALERIAN TRIBE.)

VALERIANA† SYLVATICA, (Tall Swamp Valerian). This plant is closely allied to the *Dioica*, and possesses similar medicinal properties, acting as a stimulant and antispasmodic; useful in hysteria, in form of infusion or powder of root—contains considerable volatile oil, to which it owes its effects.

COMPOSITÆ, *Linn.*—(THE COMPOSITE TRIBE.)

LIATRIS SPICATA, *Willd.*, (Tall Button Snakeroot). An indigenous perennial plant, has a tuberous root, possessing a terebinthinate odor, and a warm, bitter taste. Is tonic, diaphoretic, alterative and

\* From the Greek *gala*, milk, one of the species having been used to curdle milk.

† From the Latin *valeo*, to be strong, from its supposed virtues.

diuretic ; decoction has cured gonorrhœa ; forms useful gargle in sore throat ; useful in gravel, scrofula, and dropsy ; one of the *Shaker medicines*. We have several species of this plant. All that have tuberos roots appear to be diuretic.

EUPATORIUM\* PURPUREUM, *Linn.*, (Joe Pye Weed). This well-known plant, sometimes called *gravel-weed*, has a bitter, aromatic, and astringent taste, and is diuretic and diaphoretic ; is a popular remedy for the cure of *gravel*.

E. PERFOLIATUM, *Linn.*, (Boneset, Thoroughwort). Tonic, diaphoretic ; in large doses, emetic and aperient ; useful in colds and the commencement of fevers, to induce sweating ; also in hot decoction in the cold stage of intermittents. The cold decoction to be given during the intervals. Its diaphoretic properties are most important, though it is given with benefit in general debility, dyspepsia, and where simple, bitter tonics are indicated.

E. TEUCRIFOLIUM, (Wild Horehound). Less bitter and disagreeable than the last, though nearly equally medicinal. Tonic, diaphoretic, diuretic, and aperient ; used successfully in intermittents. We have *eight* species of *eupatorium* growing in the State of New-York, all of which possess similar properties.

The *E. Aromaticum* (*sweet-scented Hemp weed*,) the *E. Ageritoides*, (White Snakeroot,) and several other species of this plant, possess similar properties.

TUSSILAGO † FARFARA, *Linn.*, (Common Coltsfoot). A well-known and popular emollient, demulcent and tonic—and in pulmonary affections, acute and chronic. Its expectorant properties are slight. Cullen recommends the expressed juice in scrofula. Usual form of administration is decoction ;  $\bar{3}$  ij. of the plant boiled in O. ij. to one. The leaves, flowers and root are all used. The latter is bitter, as well as mucilaginous. The "*Essence of Coltsfoot*," is a balsam dissolved in alcohol, and often injurious. The dried leaves are sometimes smoked for the relief of asthma.

ASTER, ‡ *Tourn.* We have twenty-six known species of Aster growing in this State, some of which have valuable medicinal properties. Those which have aromatic roots are stimulant, diaphoretic, diuretic, and antispasmodic ; the *Novæ-Angliæ* is employed, in decoction, as an external application in cutaneous eruptions.

ERIGERON, *Linn.*, (Fleabane). E. CANADENSE, *Linn.*, (Horse Weed). E. BELLIDIFOLIUM, *Muhl.*, (Poor Robert's Plantain). E.

\* From *Eupator*, king of Pontus, who used this plant as a medicine.

† From the Latin *tussis*, cough, for which the plant is used.

‡ From the Greek *aster*, a star, the shape of the flower.

**PHILADELPHICUM**, *Linn.*, (Philadelphia Fleabane). **E. ANNUM**, *Pers.*, (Sweet Scabious Daisy). **E. STRIGOSUM**, *Muhl.*, (Fleabane Daisy). All the above species are diuretic, tonic, astringent, and antilithic. They have been employed successfully in nephritic and dropsical complaints, as hydrothorax. The *Canadense* is astringent in perhaps a greater degree than the others, and was employed by the late Dr. Dupuy, of this city, in diarrhœa, dysentery, and other profluvia, in form of infusion and decoction, extract and tincture. We prefer the *Canadense*, although the other species are highly medicinal. Dr. Williams speaks highly of this plant, in the *New-York Journal of Medicine*, vol. 7, p. 36-7. It deserves more frequent use. The *Annum*, (*Sweet Scabious Daisy, etc.*) is one of the Shaker remedies, and is a very valuable diuretic and astringent. It has a considerable reputation as an alterative; a syrup of it promotes expectoration in dry coughs, and it is a decided emmenagogue.

**SOLIDAGO**,\* *Linn.*, (Golden Rod). Out of sixty species of this plant, growing in the United States, New-York furnishes at least twenty-five, some of which are valuable medicines.

**S. ODORA**, *Ait.*, (The Sweet-scented Golden Rod), which has flowers of a deep, golden yellow color, is aromatic, carminative, and stimulant; diaphoretic when given in warm infusion, and successfully to allay pain from flatulence; to allay nausea, and cover the taste of unpleasant medicines usually given for these purposes in infusion, the *vol. oil* is also used. The dried flowers form a good substitute for *tea*. It is also astringent, and has lithontriptic properties. The bruised leaves exhale the odor of anise-seed, and yield by distillation a fragrant volatile oil, which is used as a remedy for flatulence and to allay nausea.

**SOLIDAGO VIRGA-AUREA**, *Linn.*, (Common Golden Rod). The flowers are aperient, diuretic and tonic; the leaves gently astringent; a useful remedy in nephritic complaints and suppression of urine, in form of infusion made of the flowers. An infusion of the leaves is useful in general debility and chronic fluxes, as diarrhœa and dysentery, leucorrhœa, etc.

**INULA HELENIUM**, *Linn.*, (Common Elecampane). A naturalized plant, contains a peculiar principle, analogous to starch, called *inulin*; a white concrete substance called *heleine*, intermediate in its properties between the essential oils and camphor, also bitter extractive, a bitter resin, gum, albumen, lignin, wax, *vol. oil*, saline matters, etc. Elecampane is tonic and gently stimulant; has diaphoretic, diuretic, em-

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\* From the Latin *solido*, to make firm, in allusion to its supposed vulnerary qualities.

menagogue, and expectorant properties; chiefly employed in chronic pulmonary disorders; also a popular remedy in cutaneous disorders. Given in powder and decoction.

*PLUCHEA CAMPHORATA*, *De-Can.*, (Sea-side Marsh Fleabane). A strong-scented plant, growing near the sea-side, exhaling an odor of camphor, a useful stimulant, and powerful antispasmodic, diaphoretic and diuretic.

*RUDBECKIA LACINIATA*, *Linn.*, (Thimble Weed). Diuretic, balsamic, useful in nephritic diseases, especially albuminuria. Given freely in decoction.

*HELENIUM\** *AUTUMNALE*, *Linn.*, (Sneeze Weed). All parts of this plant are bitter, and somewhat acrid; has been used as a sternutatory or errhine, in form of powdered leaves and flowers. It is also tonic and diaphoretic, and is recommended in intermittents. As an errhine, Griffith says, it is not equal in power to the *Asarum*, or the brown powder of the *Ka'mia*, but is useful where these cannot be procured.

*MARUTA COTULA*, *De Cand.*, (May Weed.) A troublesome weed, introduced from Europe; has a strong, unpleasant smell, and an acrid, bitter, and nauseous taste. The whole plant is officinal. It is tonic, diaphoretic, emetic, and very similar to chamomile in its medicinal properties. It might be employed in some cases with equal benefit, if its taste were not so unpleasant. The fresh plant bruised and applied to the skin, vesicates; but the blisters readily heal.

*ANTHEMIS†* *ARVENSIS*, *Linn.*, (Wild Chamomile). This plant resembles the common chamomile in its medicinal effects, and is used in place of it in Germany. The flowers have an acrid taste, but no smell. Tonic and anthelmintic.

*ACHILLEA‡* *MILLEFOLIUM*, *Linn.*, (Common Yarrow). The whole herb medicinal. The flowers and leaves have a pleasant, aromatic odor, and a bitter, astringent, pungent taste; contains vol. oil, bitter extractive, and tannin, to which its virtues are owing; active principles extracted by water and alcohol. A mild aromatic and astringent, used in Sweden in place of hops in brewing beer; useful in intermittents, diarrhœa, general debility, and nervous affections. Infusion the best form of administration. The vol. oil is also given in a dose of 20 to 30 drops.

*HELIANTHUS TUBEROSUS*, *Linn.*, (Jerusalem Artichoke). Cultivated in gardens for the firm fleshy tubers at the root, which are pickled and used as a condiment.

\* Named after *Helen*, wife of Menelaus, who used this, or a similar plant, as a cosmetic.

† From the Greek *anthemis*, flower.

‡ Named after *Achilles*, a disciple of Chiron.

**H. ANNUUS**, *Linn.*, (Common Sun Flower). Seed yield a valuable oil, useful for lamps; also has medicinal properties.

**TANACETUM\*** *VULGARE*, *Linn.*, (Common Tansey). A well-known domestic tonic, stomachic, and anthelmintic, useful in atonic dyspepsia, hysteria, and intermittents; also in amenorrhœa; and the oil is often taken to produce abortion. The *seeds* are most effectual as a vermifuge. Dose of the powder from ʒ ss. to ʒ i., two or three times a day; infusion is the best form. For a fatal case of poisoning by the oil, see *Am. Jour. Med. Sci.* (16, 256).

**ARTEMISIA**,† *Linn.*, (Worm-wood). We have three species of this plant, viz. the *Canadensis*, the *Caudata*, and the *Vulgaris*; all of which are bitter tonics, and might be employed where such medicines are indicated. They are anthelmintic, stomachic, and antispasmodic, and owe their virtues to an essential oil.

**GNAPHALIUM‡** *POLYCEPHALUM*, *Michx.*, (Life Everlasting Balsam). A sweet-scented plant, employed as a popular remedy in dysentery and other bowel affections; an infusion of it is also used in pulmonary and hemorrhagic affections; and externally, as a fomentation, in bruises, local swellings, and tumors.

**ERECHTITES HIERACIFOLIUS**, *Raf.*, (Fire-weed). The whole plant has a rank, nauseous odor, and a disagreeable, bitterish taste. In large doses, emetic—employed in diarrhœa; the essential oil is recommended for piles; and externally, fomentations with the bruised plant, in cases of contusions, wounds, ulcers, etc.

**CACALIA ATRIPPLICIFOLIA**, *Linn.*, (Indian Plantain). The leaves are sometimes used as an application to wounds.

**SENECIO§ AUREUS**, *Linn.*, (Life Root, Squaw Weed). This plant is sometimes called *Gravel Root*, and by the Indians *Nun-qua*. It is a certain diuretic and diaphoretic; it increases the force of the circulation, without producing any febrile symptoms; is particularly useful in cases of anemia, attended with cold extremities, and feeble circulation; a powerful emmenagogue, when given in form of the warm infusion; also antispasmodic, particularly recommended where the capillary circulation is feeble. (*Graham*, in *N. York Jour. of Med.*, vol. 3, p. 366).

**ARNICA MOLLIS**, *Hooker*, (Soft Arnica). According to Dr. Thomson, (*Lond. Disp.*) the European species, (*Montana*), contains an iga-

\* Name altered from the Greek *athanasia*, a, not, and *thanatos*, death, because its flowers are lasting.

† From *Artemis*, the *Diana* of the Greeks.

‡ From the Greek *gnaphalon*, soft down, or wool.

§ So named from *Senex*, an old man.

*saurate of strychnia or brucia*, to which it owes its medicinal power. It has proved successful in intermittents, and is used with benefit in palsy, tumors and amaurosis. Some of the American species, according to Hooker, (*Am. Bor.*, p. 330), approach so very closely to the *Montana* in their characters, as to be varieties of it. It is worth investigating whether the *A. Mollis*, which is found in Essex county and some other parts of the State, does not possess the same virtues, and may be substituted for the European plant.

CENTAUREA\* CYANUS, *Linn.*, (French Pink). CNICUS,† *Vaill.*, (Blessed Thistle). CARDUUS BENEDICTUS, (Common Blessed Thistle). An annual herbaceous plant, with yellow flowers, naturalized. The leaves, gathered when in flower, contain a *vol. oil*, and a peculiar principle, *onicin*, crystallizable and very bitter, analogous to *salicin* in composition and effects. The plant tonic, diaphoretic, emetic—cold infusion as a mild and certain tonic; the hot decoction, a good diaphoretic; and in large doses, emetic. The medicinal properties closely resemble those of the chamomile.

LAPPA‡ MAJOR, *Goert.*, (Burdock). A well-known naturalized plant. The *root* has a mucilaginous and sweetish taste, with slight degree of bitterness and astringency; contains *inulin* and *sugar*; *seeds* aromatic, bitterish, and acrid; aperient, alterative and sudorific—one of our very best deobstruents. The infusion of root is a domestic remedy for colic and nephritic complaints, and the leaves applied externally for cutaneous eruptions. The ashes afford much potash. This article may be used with perhaps as much advantage as sarsaparilla, in syphilitic, rheumatic, nephritic, scrofulous, and cutaneous diseases, in form of decoction, made of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij. recently bruised root in O. iij. water, boiled to two, a pint to be taken in 24 hours. Seeds are a useful diuretic, in doses of 3j. in emulsion, or powder.

CICORIUM INTYBUS, *Linn.*, (Wild Succory, or Chicory). A plant mentioned by Dioscorides, used very anciently in hepatic obstructions. The whole plant bitter without acrimony; taste astringent in root; young leaves sometimes eaten as salad; gently tonic, aperient, and deobstruent; useful, freely taken in hepatic congestion, jaundice, and other visceral obstructions; also in pulmonary affections—strong decoction preferable, used freely; the root, dried and roasted, is sometimes used as a substitute for coffee, also to flavor or adulterate it. The *garden endive* is a species of this plant.

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\* The *Centaur*, *Chion*, is said to have cured himself of a wound received from Hercules, with this plant.

† From the Greek, *knizo*, to prick or wound.

‡ From the Celtic word *llap*, because it lays hold of everything near it.

**HIERACIUM\* VENOSUM**, *Linn.*, (Rattlesnake Weed). One of the numerous plants said to be an antidote to the bite of the rattlesnake. The *scabrum* exudes a milky juice, and probably would be found a useful medicine.

**NABALUS ALBUS**, *Tor. & Gr.* (The Prenanthes of Linneus, Rattlesnake's Root, White Lettuce, etc.) Another supposed specific for the bite of venomous serpents.

**N. FRASERI**, *De. Can.*, (Gall of the Earth). Root intensely bitter; tonic and deobstruent; diuretic; ? also recommended for the bite of the rattlesnake.

**TARAXACUM† DENS-LEONIS**, (Common Dandelion). Diuretic, tonic, aperient, and alterative; useful in hepatic and other visceral engorgements, and derangements of digestive organs; it increases the secretion of bile, in torpid conditions of the organ, but is contraindicated in cases of irritation or inflammation of stomach and bowels. Given in form of extract, or decoction. Soda increases its activity, and aromatics correct its tendency to produce griping or flatulence. *Off. U. S. P.*

LOBELIACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE LOBELIA TRIBE.)

**LOBELIA INFLATA**, *Linn.*, (Indian Tobacco). An acrid narcotic; diaphoretic, expectorant, emetic, and cathartic; an infusion causes speedy and severe emesis, attended with long-continued and distressing nausea, copious sweating, and great, general relaxation. In large and repeated doses it causes inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, and death, attended with the usual symptoms of the acro-narcotic poisons. Too violent and distressing in its effects for ordinary use. Tincture useful in asthma, and as an expectorant, with laudanum or ipecac. Much abused by Thomsonians and other quacks. Contains a peculiar principle, *lobelina*. *Off. U. S. P.*

**L. CARDINALIS**. Medicinal properties somewhat similar to those of *inflata*, but less active; supposed to be useful as a remedy for worms.

**L. SYPHILITICA**. Emetic, cathartic, and diuretic. Same remarks apply to this species.

**L. CLAYTONIANA**. Said to be a good diuretic. (See Williams, in *New-York Jour. of Med.*, vol. 7, p. 175). Seven species grow in the State of New-York.

\* From the Greek, *hierax*, a hawk; the ancients supposed the hawk, and other birds of prey, used the juice of this plant to sharpen their sight.

† From the Greek *tarasso*, to disturb.

ERICACEÆ, *Endl.*—(THE HEATH TRIBE.)

**ARCTOSTAPHYLOS\*** *UVA URSI*, *Spreng.* (Bear-berry). The *uva ursi* of the shops, a low evergreen shrub, with trailing stems, gathered in autumn; the leaves taste bitterish, strongly astringent, ultimately sweetish; contain tannin, resin, gum, extractive, and gallic acid; tannin abounds to that extent that they are sometimes used in tanning leather; active principles soluble in water and alcohol; astringent, tonic, diuretic, antilithic, and lithontriptic, exerts a direct and specific influence on kidneys and urinary organs; useful in diseases of bladder and kidneys, as nephritis, calculus, catarrh of bladder, or urethra, incontinence of urine, gleet, leucorrhœa, hemorrhagia, diabetes, etc. Also in all passive hemorrhages, in decoction or powder. (*Offi. U. S. Phar.*) I found this plant in great abundance on the shores of Lake Superior, where it is smoked with tobacco by the Indians, under the name of "*Kinnikinnick.*"

**EPIGEA†** *REPENS*, *Linn.*, (Trailing Arbutus). This plant has the same medicinal virtues as the *uva ursi*, and might be substituted for it. It is a popular domestic remedy for gravel, and is put up and sold by the Shakers under the name of *Gravel Plant*.

**CLETHRA** *ALNIFOLIA*, *Linn.*, (Sweet Pepper Bush). A diaphoretic, stimulant, fragrant, the leaves and flowers; a handsome plant growing in swamps and thickets in the south part of the State.

**GAUTIERA‡** *PROCUMBENS*, *Linn.*, (Partridge Berry). A well-known, small, shrubby, indigenous, evergreen plant. The leaves and whole plant possess aromatic properties, similar to *sweet birch*, which reside in a volatile oil; the leaves contain much *tannin*, and are astringent—a cordial stimulant, united with astringency—adapted well to cures of chronic diarrhœa; chiefly used to impart an agreeable flavor to other preparations. The *oil* or infusion may be used—has been employed successfully as an emmenagogue. (*U. S. P.*) The oil is sold under the name of *Oil of Wintergreen*. Berries are edible, and have a very pleasant flavor. The oil is recently ascertained by M. Cahours to be a *salicylite of the oxide of methyl*, and composed of an acid called the *salicylic*, (hitherto found only in the oil of spirea,) united with the ether of wood-spirit, (*Methylic Ether*).

**ANDROMEDA§** *POLYFOLIA*, *Linn.*, (Sorrel Tree, Sour Tree, Andromeda, etc.).

\* From the Greek, *arktos*, a bear, and *staphyle*, a grape.

† From the Greek, *epi*, upon, and *ge*, the earth—prostrate.

‡ Named after *Dr. Gautier*, a French physician of Quebec.

§ No allusion to the fable of Andromeda.

**A. ARBOREA.** *Schoepf* states that this species is found in this State, though not mentioned by Torrey. The leaves and wood contain malic acid, with tannin, and hence form a useful combination in many cases of disease. *Rafinesque* says they form a refreshing, cooling, anti-febrile drink, allaying thirst, etc.; useful where a refrigerant astringent is needed; very similar to the fruit of the *Rhus Glabrum* or *Sumac*.

**A. MARIANA,** *Linn.*, (Kill Lamb, Stagger-bush). A species supposed to be poisonous to lambs and calves, producing a disease called the staggers; a decoction is said to be useful as a wash in ulcers.

**RHODODENDRON,\*** *Linn.*, (Rose Bay). We have seven species indigenous of this beautiful genus growing in the State of New-York, under the names of *Great Laurel*, *Wild Honeysuckle*, etc. Their medical properties have never been investigated, so far as we know, although they richly deserve it. If we mistake not, like the *Rhododendron Chrysanthemum* of Siberia, some of the species will be found to have valuable stimulant, diaphoretic, and narcotic properties, and prove valuable remedies in the treatment of rheumatism, palsy, gout, etc.

**KALMIA†** *LATIFOLIA,* *Linn.*, (Laurel, Calico-bush). Leaves, narcotic, poisonous. Sheep, and some other animals, are occasionally poisoned by eating the leaves of this plant. *Barton* says that the flesh of partridges and pheasants that have fed on the leaves in winter, has often caused symptoms of poisoning and even death. Not employed in medicine. *Dr. Barton* says he has seen 20 grains of the recently powdered leaves given at once without perceptible effect.

**K. ANGUSTIFOLIA,** (Dwarf Laurel, Sheep Laurel). **K. GLAUCA,** (Swamp Laurel). Both of these species possess the same qualities as the *latifolia*.

**LEDUM PALUSTRE,** *Linn.*, (Labrador Tea). The leaves have an aromatic, balsamic odor, and bitter taste; contain vol. oil and tannin; tonic, astringent, and slightly narcotic; decoction of leaves is used as a wash, and internally in cutaneous affections, attended with irritation and itching; also in diarrhoea and dysentery; used in Germany, in brewing, as a substitute for hops. This plant was used as a substitute for tea, during the revolutionary war.

**VACCINIUM CORYMBOSUM,** *Linn.*, (Tall Swamp Huckleberry). Berry nearly one-third of an inch in diameter, dark blue, covered with a bloom, sub-acid and well-flavored.

**V. PENNSYLVANICUM.** (Dwarf Blue Huckleberry). Berries large, bluish black, covered with a glaucous bloom, sweet and well-flavored.

\* From the Greek, *rhodon*, a rose, and *dendron*, a tree.

† In honor of *Peter Kalm*, a Swedish botanist.

V. VACCILLANS. (Low Blue Huckleberry). Berries dark blue, glaucous, very sweet and well-tasted.

V. ULIGNIOSUM. (Alpine Bilberry). Berries deep blue; at sources of the Hudson.

V. CANADENSE, *Kalm.* (Black Bilberry). Berries bluish black, sweet and palatable. (Swamps in certain parts of the State.)

V. STAMINEUM, *Linn.*, (Deer Berry, Squaw Huckleberry). Berry large, globose, somewhat pyriform, usually greenish, but sometimes purplish, of a bitterish and somewhat astringent taste, but not unpleasant when fully ripe.

All the above species are nutritious and palatable as food, and constitute a very healthy article of diet to invalids, either in their fresh state or made into a jelly.

VACCINIUM OXYCOCCOS, *Linn.*, (Small Cranberry). V. MACROCARPON, *Ait.*, (Common Cranberry). Both of these species are extensively used as sauce, and as a nutritious diet and drink in febrile diseases. A drink made of cranberry jelly is extremely refreshing and antifebrile.

GAYLUSSACIA\* HIRTELLA, *Torrey & Gray*, (Dwarf Swamp Huckleberry). Fruit black and shining when ripe, glandularly pubescent, watery and rather insipid.

G. FRONDOSA. (Blue Tangle, Dangle Berry). Fruit large, globose, sweet and well-flavored.

G. RESINOSA, *Torrey & Gray*, (Black Huckleberry). Fruit slightly acid, but agreeable.

Same remarks apply to these, as to the former species of this esculent and healthy fruit.

CHIMAPHILLA† UMBELLATA, *Nutt.*, (Pipsissewa, Prince's Pine). A well-known evergreen, tonic, diuretic, astringent, antilithic and lithon-thriptic; employed by the Indians in scrofula, rheumatism, and nephritic diseases; useful in dropsy; in broken-down habits, its medicinal properties are similar to those of the *uva ursi*, adapted to same cases of disease; an excellent tonic in simple debility of digestive organs; good alterative in cutaneous affections and scrofula.

C. MACULATA, *Pursh*, (Spotted Winter Green). Properties similar to the umbellata; both contain extractive, gum, resin, tannin, saline matters, etc.; bitter, astringent, and sweetish to the taste; but slightly aromatic.

\* From *Gay Lussac*, the French chemist.

† From the Greek, *cheima*, winter, and *phileo*, to love.

AQUIFOLIACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE HOLLY TRIBE.)

*Ilex Opaca*, *Ait.*, (American Holly). An evergreen tree, 10 to 30 feet high. A viscid substance called *bird-lime* is prepared from its inner bark. The leaves are bitter, and diaphoretic; *tonic*, contain a peculiar bitter principle, *ilicin*; berries are the size of a large pea, persistent, bright red, and are purgative, diuretic, and emetic; ten or twelve will generally prove cathartic. This plant has been employed successfully in the cure of intermittents, jaundice, and dropsy. Found near Kingsbridge, island of New York.

*Prinos\* Verticillatus*, *Linn.*, (Black Alder, Common Winter Berry). This shrub has round berries, size of a pea, scarlet when ripe, and several clustered together.—*The bark.* Taste bitter and astringent, tonic and astringent, recommended in diarrhœa, dropsy, intermittents, and diseases connected with debility; a very useful remedy in cutaneous diseases, taken internally in form of strong decoction, and applied as a wash; also in gangrenous and ill-conditioned ulcers. The decoction should be made by boiling  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij. of the bark in 3 pints of water to a quart. Dose  $\frac{3}{4}$  ij. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  iij. Dose of powder 3 ss. to 3i.

*P. Glabra*, *Linn.*, (Inkberry, Evergreen Winterberry). Has the same medicinal properties as the above.

EBENACEÆ, *Vent.*—(THE EBONY TRIBE.)

*Diospyros† Virginiana*, *Linn.*, (Persimmon, U. S. P.). The *bark* and *fruit*; grows in moist places in the southern parts of the State. Fruit roundish, about one inch in diameter, reddish orange when ripe, fleshy, very astringent until acted on by frost, then soft and luscious; when green the fruit is excessively astringent. In the southern and western States it is made into cakes with bran, and used in preparing beer, with the addition of water, hops, and yeast. A spiritous liquor is obtained by distilling the fermented infusion. The unripe fruit is recommended by Dr. Mettauer, of Va., in chronic dysentery, diarrhœa, and uterine hemorrhage, in form of infusion, syrup, or vinous tincture. Bark is used as a tonic in intermittents, and to make an astringent gargle in ulcerated sore throats, etc. The ripe fruit is grateful, and it is said possesses anthelmintic properties.

PLANTAGINACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE PLANTAIN TRIBE.)

*Plantago Major*, *Linn.*, (Common Plantain). The leaves and

\* From the Greek *prio*, to saw, the leaves being serrated.

† From the Greek *Dios*, Jupiter, and *pyros*, fruit, meaning heavenly fruit.

root refrigerant, alterative, diuretic, and astringent, employed by the ancients in hemorrhages, visceral obstructions, phthisis, dysentery, etc.; externally to ulcers and scrofulous tumors, and as a dressing to blisters and sores, given in a strong decoction, or the expressed juice.

*P. CORDATA*, *Lam.*, (Heart-leaved Plantain).

*P. LANCEOLATA*, *Linn.*, (Rib Grass, English Plantain). These two species have the same properties as the former, and may be substituted for them. The same remark will probably apply to the *P. VIRGINICA*, *Linn.*, (White Plantain,) *P. MARATIMA*, *Linn.*, (Sea Plantain,) and *P. PUSILLA*, *Nutt.*, (Dwarf Plantain).

PLUMBAGINACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE LEADWORT TRIBE.)

*STATICE LIMONIUM*, *Linn.*, (Common Marsh Rosemary). This is the *S. Caroliniana* of Pursh, Bigelow, Griffith, and others. Found on our seacoast. The root bitter, and powerfully astringent; virtues imparted to water and alcohol. Contains 12 per cent. of tannin, no gallic acid. Bigelow thinks it equal in astringency to galls. A very useful remedy where powerful astringents are indicated, as the latter stages of diarrhœa, and as a gargle in ulcerated sore throat. Given in infusion, decoction, extract, or tincture.—(See *Dr. Mott's Inaug. Thesis, Experiment. Inquir. on Statice, &c.*)

OROBANCHACEÆ, *L. C. Rich.*—(THE BROOM RAPE TRIBE.)

*OROBANCHE\* AMERICANA*, *Linn.*, (Squaw Root, Cancer Root). The plant has an unpleasant, nauseous, bitter, and astringent taste, used internally in bowel complaints. The powder has considerable reputation as a local application to cancerous ulcers. Supposed to have been an ingredient of *Martin's Cancer Powder*, (*Barton*), *Wood and Bache*. Astringent, antiseptic, antisyphilitic, considered at the west as a specific in gonorrhœa and syphilis.

*EPIPHEGUS† AMERICANA*, *Nutt.*, (Beech Drops, Cancer-root), has the same properties as the above; they are often confounded, though different species. (See *Torrey's Flora*). Has considerable reputation in dysentery and diarrhœa, etc., though its powers are probably overrated.

BIGNONIACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE TRUMPET FLOWER TRIBE.)

*CATALPA‡ SYRINGEFOLIA*, *Sims.*, (Catalpa, Indian Bean), more

\* From the Greek *orobos*, a vetch, and *anchein*, to strangle, from its supposed injurious effects.

† From the Greek *epi*, upon, and *phegas*, the beech, because it grows upon the roots of this tree.

‡ Corruption of *catawba*, the Indian name for this tree.

esteemed for ornament than use. The wood has a fine texture, and takes a good polish. Supposed to possess medicinal properties. The seeds have been employed with success in asthma— $\frac{3}{4}$  iv. of seeds to be boiled in  $\frac{3}{4}$  xij. of water down to  $\frac{3}{4}$  vi., the whole to be given night and morning. (*Jour. Phil. Col. Phar.* 6. 352.)

SCROPHULARIACEÆ, R. Br.—(THE FIGWORT TRIBE.)

VERBASCUM\* THAPSUS, *Linn.*, (Common Mullein). The leaves and flowers have a slight narcotic smell, mucilaginous and bitter taste, impart their virtues to water by infusion; demulcent and emollient, and possess mild anodyne properties; hence used in catarrh and other pectoral complaints. The decoction of leaves is a good remedy in diarrhœa and dysentery, and a good anodyne external emollient. The flowers, when dried in the sun, yield a fatty oil, which is useful in piles. A good emollient ointment may also be prepared by boiling the leaves in lard.

The V. BLATTARIA, *Linn.*, (Moth Mullein), and B. LYCHNITIS, *Linn.*, (White Mullein), probably possess similar virtues.

SCROPHULARIA MARILANDICA, *Linn.*, (Figwort). This plant, which is nearly allied to the *S. Nudosa* of Europe, probably possesses similar virtues, i. e., is anodyne, diuretic, diaphoretic, tonic, anthelmintic, and alterative; hence employed in scrofula, from which circumstance its name is derived. The bruised root has considerable reputation in domestic practice, as a poultice for reducing inflammation in tumors.

LINARIA† VULGARIS, *Maench.*, (Common Toad Flax, Great Dragon). The herb, collected when in flower, tastes bitter, slightly acrid, and weakly saline, diuretic and cathartic. The infusion has been employed with success in dropsy, jaundice, and cutaneous affections, also in the latter as external fomentations, or an ointment, by boiling the flowers in lard. The flowers may be used for dyeing yellow.

COLLINSIA‡ VERNA, *Nutt.*, (Early parti-colored Collinsia). CHELONE§ GLABRA, *Linn.*, (Snake Head). Several varieties. The leaves inodorous, but very bitter, contain gallic acid and bitter extractive; tonic and cathartic; in small doses laxative and deobstruent. Rafinesque says it acts powerfully on the liver. It is much employed as

\* Altered from *barbascum*, the leaves being covered with a *barba* or beard.

† From the Latin *linum*, flax, which the leaves resemble.

‡ In honor of *Z. Collins*, an eminent botanist of Philadelphia.

§ From the Greek *chelone*, a tortoise, the flower resembling the head of that animal.

a tonic by the Thomsonians, under the name of *Balmomy*. The Shakers use it also, and put it up for sale. It deserves a fuller examination.

GRATIOLA VIRGINICA, *Linn.*, (Common Hedge Hyssop).

G. AUREA, *Muhl.*, (Golden Hedge Hyssop). The European Hedge Hyssop is an active, drastic cathartic, diuretic, and emetic, and contains *Veratria*. The above species have not been fully investigated, but if we mistake not, they will be found to possess similar properties. The *Aurea* certainly has very powerful properties, and we believe might be substituted for the *Officinalis*. We would recommend a tincture of it to be tried in rheumatism and gout, as it probably operates in a manner similar to colchicum and veratrum.

VERONICA OFFICINALIS, *Linn.*, (Common Speedwell). This plant has an astringent, warm, bitterish taste, and is considered diuretic, diaphoretic, tonic, and expectorant; formerly much employed in pectoral and cutaneous diseases, nephritic complaints, and wounds. Has been used as a substitute for tea.

V. BECCABUNGA, *Linn.*, (Brookline). A very succulent plant, forms a good emollient fomentation and poultice, formerly considered depurative and alterative.

V. PEREGRINA, *Linn.* Once employed in scrofulous affections. (See *Bart. Med. & Phys. Jour.* 3, p. 24.)

PAEDEROTA VIRGINICA, *Torrey*, (Culver's Root, or Physic, formerly Leptandria Virginica, *Nutt.*). *The root*. This is bitter and nauseous, and yields its virtues to boiling water; acts powerfully as emetic and cathartic, when fresh—not so active when dry. Dose, xx. grs. to 3j.

#### VERBENACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE VERVAIN TRIBE.)

VERBENA\* HASTATA, *Linn.*, (Tall Blue Vervain).

V. URTICIFOLIA, *Linn.*, (Common Vervain). A plant held sacred by the ancients, and employed in their religious rites; still worn around the neck for the cure of scrofula. It is bitter to the taste, and has tonic and emetic properties. Its medicinal virtues are not great.

#### LABIATÆ, *Juss.*—(THE MINT TRIBE.)

MENTHA† VIRIDIS, *Linn.*, (Spearmint). M. PIPERITA, *Linn.*, (Peppermint). M. CANADENSIS, *Linn.*, (Canadian Mint). These species of mint are well known remedies as stimulants, in cases of flatulence,

\* An alteration of the Celtic word *ferfaen*, from *fer* to drive away, and *faen* a stone, in allusion to its medicinal virtues.

† From *Minthe*, a daughter of Caeytus, who, according to fable, was changed into this plant.

gastric debility, etc. The last is the only one indigenous to this country. The two former are grateful aromatic cordials, and used to allay nausea, relieve spasmodic pains of the digestive organs, expel flatus, and correct the taste of nauseating medicines. In fomentation over the stomach, they relieve nausea and vomiting, especially in cholera infantum of young children. In infusion or vol. oil. *Off. U. S. P.*

LYCOPUS\* VIRGINICUS, *Linn.*, (Bugle-weed). The whole herb; taste slightly bitter, odor peculiar, virtues imparted to boiling water. A mild astringent, narcotic, and depurative; has been used with success in incipient phthisis, and hemorrhage from the lungs. It lessens the frequency of the pulse, quiets irritation, and allays cough. Infusion best form of using it. (See *N. York Med. & Phys. Jour.* 1, 179.)

MONARDA† DIDYMA, *Linn.*, (Oswego Tea). M. FISTULOSA, *Linn.*, (Horse Mint, Wild Bergamot). M. PUNCTATA, *Linn.*, (Horse Mint). All these species are more or less aromatic and pungent to the taste, and abound in vol. oil, which is separated by distillation. They are carminative and stimulant. The oil forms an excellent stimulating embrocation in rheumatism, flatulent colic, and in cases where such remedies are needed. (See *Phil. Med. Recorder*, vol. 1, p. 494.)

PYCNANTHEMUM‡ INCANUM, *Michx.*, (Common Mountain Mint). P. MUTICUM, *Pers.*, (Hairy-leaved Mountain Mint). P. LANCEOLATUM, *Pursh.*, (Virginian Thyme). We have six species of mountain mint, most of which are used as domestic remedies to answer the same indications as the other species of mint.

ORIGANUM§ VULGARE, *Linn.*, (Common Wild Marjorum). This plant has a warm, pungent taste, and a peculiar aromatic odor, which are owing to a volatile oil. It is a stimulant, tonic, diaphoretic, and emmenagogue. The oil forms a good external stimulant as an embrocation in toothache, neuralgia, rheumatism, etc. *Off. U. S. P.*

COLLINSIA|| CANADENSIS, *Linn.*, (Common Horse-balm, Stone Root, Knot Root). An indigenous plant, having a strong and disagreeable smell, and a warm pungent taste. Diuretic, diaphoretic, tonic, and astringent. The active principle is volatile, hence the fresh plant is to be preferred. The decoction of the fresh root is highly recommended in cystitis, gravel, leucorrhœa, and dropsy, and it is a popular

\* From the Greek *lykos*, a wolf, and *pous*, foot; its leaves resembling the foot of that animal.

† In honor of *Monardez*, a Spanish botanist of the 16th century.

‡ From the Greek *pyknos*, dense, and *antheon*, a flower, the flowers being in clusters.

§ From *oros*, mountain, and *ganeas*, joy; because many of the species are fragrant and beautiful, and grow in hilly places.

|| In honor of *Peter Collinson*, of London, a distinguished patron of botany.

application in the form of fomentation, to ulcers, wounds, and bruises. It is apt to excite nausea and vomiting. The *Shakers* put up the root and sell it under the name of *Stone-root*; it is chiefly employed for diuretic and tonic purposes. The oil or tincture are the best preparations.

CANILA MARIANA, *Linn.*, (Common Ditany). A small indigenous herb, having a pungent taste and agreeable odor, depending on an essential oil. It is a gently-stimulating aromatic and diaphoretic; a warm tea of it, like that of the mints, is a popular mode of inducing perspiration, in colds and fevers; to relieve colic, and promote the menstrual flow.

HEDEOMA\* PULEGIOIDES, *Pers.*, (Pennyroyal). A well-known indigenous annual plant, a very pleasant aromatic stimulant, emmenagogue, and diaphoretic; given in warm infusion on going to bed; also in flatulent colic, and sick stomach. The oil is a favorite mode of administration with some. *Off. U. S. P.*

MELISSA† CLINOPODIUM, *Benth.*, (Wild Basil, Field Thyme). *M. OFFICINALIS*, (Common Balm). These species contain a small quantity of essential oil of a peculiar flavor; it forms one of the best diaphoretic drinks in febrile complaints, and is very acceptable to the stomach.

SCUTELLARIA‡ LATERIFLORA, *Linn.*, (Mad-dog Scull-cap). Has no sensible properties—had a considerable reputation at one time as a preventive of hydrophobia: at present few place any confidence in it as a prophylactic. (See *Barton in Phil. Med. and Phys. Jour.*, vol. 1.)

S. INTEGRIFOLIA, *Linn.* (Entire-leaved Scull-cap). This species is intensely bitter, and possesses decided tonic properties.

NEPETA§ CATARIA, *Linn.* (Common Catnep, Cat-mint). The whole plant—odor unpleasant, bitter aromatic taste; a useful carminative in diseases of children. It is anodyne and decidedly antispasmodic, hence an excellent remedy in a paroxysm of hysteria—has considerable reputation in the treatment of amenorrhœa and chlorosis; also as an anthelmintic. Given to infants and young children in infusion.

LEONURUS|| CARDIACA, *Linn.*, (Common Motherwort). Formerly in high repute as a medicine—a gentle, stimulating diaphoretic, and emmenagogue.

\* From the Greek *hedys*, sweet, and *osme*, odor.

† From the Greek *melissa*, a bee, because its flowers are much sought after by that insect.

‡ From the Latin *scutella*, a little cup, from the appearance of the calyx.

§ From the Greek *nepa*, a scorpion, the bite of which it was once supposed to cure.

|| From the Greek *leon*, a lion, and *vara*, a tail, from a fancied resemblance of the plant.

**MARRUBIUM VULGARE**, *Linn.*, (Common Horehound). The whole plant is officinal. Stimulant, diuretic and tonic—in large doses laxative ; a popular remedy in coughs, colds, and diseases of pulmonary organs, in the form of expressed juice, syrup or candy. We have known severe cases of chronic cough cured by the expressed juice taken in warm new milk.

BORAGINACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE BORAGE TRIBE.)

**PULMONARIA\*** **VIRGINICA**, *Linn.*, (Virginian Lungwort). As the species of this plant are emollient and demulcent, and have enjoyed a high reputation in pulmonary diseases, Dr. Griffith thinks they owe their efficacy to a reliance on the doctrine of signatures, the leaves having spots bearing some resemblance to the lungs.—The *virg.* is astringent, and is much used in some parts of the country in coughs and colds, and diseases of respiratory organs.

**LITHOSPERMUM†** **OFFICINALE** AND **ARVENSE**, *Linn.*, (Gromwell, Stone-weed). The seeds have a greyish-white, pearly color, and a stony hardness. Formerly much employed as lithontriptic, from the supposed resemblance between the remedy and the complaint. Not used at present.

**SYMPHYTUM‡** **OFFICINALE**, *Linn.*, (Common Comfrey). A highly-mucilaginous plant, slightly astringent ; it resembles closely the mallow ; both contain an acid malate of *Altheine*. (*Jour. de Pharm.*, xiii., 635.) A popular remedy in catarrh, diarrhœa, dysentery, etc.

**CYNOGLOSSUM§** **OFFICINALE**, *Linn.*—(HOUND'S TONGUE.)

**C. VIRGINICUM**, *Linn.*, (Wild Comfrey). These plants have anodyne, demulcent, and astringent properties, and are employed as local applications to scrofulous sores, burns, tumors, sprains, etc. The *Officinale* contains an odorous principle, tannin, and several salts. Dr. Griffith thinks the plant too much neglected. (*Med. Botany*, p. 500.)

**CONVOLVULUS||** **PANDURATUS**, *Linn.*, (Wild Potato Vine). Indigenous ; the root very large, 2 or 3 feet in length, about 3 inches thick, branched at bottom, has a somewhat acrid taste. Feebly cathartic, slightly diuretic, and useful in calculous complaints, and strangury ;

\* From the Latin *pulmones*, the lungs ; they having been a remedy for diseases of this organ.

† From *lithos*, a stone, and *sperma*, seed, which are very hard.

‡ From the Greek *symphyo*, to grow together, in allusion to its healing qualities.

§ From the Greek *kyon*, a dog, and *glossa*, a tongue, from the shape of the leaves.

|| From the Latin *convolvere*, to entwine.

40 grains of the root purge; might be given in extract. A favorite remedy with some botanic doctors. (*Wood & Bache.*)

SOLANACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE NIGHT-SHADE TRIBE.)

NICOTIANA\* RUSTICA, *Linn.*, (Wild Tobacco). A naturalized plant, probably introduced by the Indians; contains *nicotina*, like common tobacco.

DATURA STRAMONIUM, *Linn.*, (Jamestown Weed). A powerful acro-narcotic; the seeds and leaves both contain the active principle *daturia*; a useful article in neuralgia and rheumatism, externally and internally used; also in asthma; it is slightly laxative; used to dilate the pupil. Cataplasms and ointment made of the leaves are also useful preparations, the latter in piles and painful ulcers, etc.

HYOSCYAMUS† NIGER, *Linn.*, (Common Henbane). A powerful narcotic, antispasmodic and anodyne, with laxative properties. Its poisonous effects are owing to an active principle, *hyoscyamia*; our most valuable anodyne, next to opium. Exotic.

SOLANUM DULCAMARA, *Linn.*, (Bitter-sweet, Woody Night-Shade). Supposed to possess deobstruent and alterative properties, very slightly narcotic, not poisonous, also diuretic and diaphoretic; given in decoction.

SOLANUM NIGRUM, *Linn.*, (Common Night-Shade.) A powerful narcotic; poisonous; introduced from Europe.

S. TUBEROSUM, *Linn.*, (Common Potato). The stalks possess narcotic properties, also the epidermis of the tubers, especially when much exposed to light. A good preventive of scurvy when eaten raw with vinegar; its nutritious properties depend chiefly on starch.

GENTIANACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE GENTIAN TRIBE.)

GENTIANA‡ SOPONARIA, *Linn.* (Soap Gentian). G. QUINQUE-FLORA, *Laur.* Five-flowered Gentian. G. CRINITA, Large fringed Gentian. Pure bitter tonics, fully equal to the imported Gentian, (*Lutea*,) and might be substituted for it; stomachic. In a fresh state they prove laxative. We have three other species, equally medicinal.

FRASERA§ CAROLINIENSIS, *Walt.*, (American Columbo). A good

\* From *John Nicot*, who introduced the weed into Europe.

† From *hyos*, a hog, and *cyamos*, a bean, because hogs are said to feed on the fruit, which resembles a bean.

‡ From *Gentius*, a king of Illyria, who brought the plant into use.

§ From *John Fraser*, a collector of North American plants.

bitter, reported by many as equal to imported Columbo. When recent, it is emetic and cathartic, and operates like rhubarb; when dried, simply tonic. Employed much at the west and south, and kept in the shops. Powder and infusion.

ERYTHRÆA\* CENTAURIUM, *Pers.*, (Common Centaury). A pure bitter and tonic, no astringency, and slight aroma.

SABBATIA† ANGULARIS, *Pursh*, (American Centaury). An excellent, pure, bitter tonic, without astringency. Two other species, *Stellaris*, (*Pursh*), and *Chloroides*, (*Pursh*), have the same properties.

MENYANTHES‡ TRIFOLIATA, *Linn.*, (Buckbean, Marsh Trefoil). A good tonic, combining laxative and diuretic properties. In small doses astringent. (See *Wood and Bache*.) Said also to be emmenagogue.

APOCYNACEÆ. *Juss.*—(THE DOGBANE TRIBE.)

APOCYNUM§ ANDROSEMIFOLIUM, *Linn.*, (Dog's Bane). Contains bitter extractive matter, caoutchouc, and vol. oil. *Root*, diaphoretic and emetic, in full doses causes emesis, without previous nausea, or much muscular relaxation. A stimulant to digestive organs in small doses.

A. CANNABINUM, *Linn.* (Indian Hemp). Emeto-cathartic, diuretic, and diaphoretic; produces copious watery evacuations, followed by general perspiration; uncertain as a diuretic, most useful as a hydragogue in dropsy.

ASCLEPIADACEÆ, *R. Br.*—(THE MILK WEED TRIBE.)

ASCLEPIAS|| CORNUTI, *Decaisne*, (Silk Weed, Milk Weed). Diuretic, diaphoretic, anodyne and expectorant. The young plants resemble asparagus; the dried leaves are employed in preparing the indigo dye in woollen manufactories.

A. INCARNATA, *Linn.*, (Swamp Silk Weed). The root, emetic and cathartic, also diaphoretic.

A. TUBEROSA, *Linn.*, (Pleurisy Root). Well known from its beautiful orange-colored flowers; a good diaphoretic and expectorant, slightly tonic. In large doses, cathartic. Has been found useful in catarrh, pneumonia, pleurisy and other pectoral complaints; also, in rheuma-

\* From the Greek *erythros*, red, the color of the flowers.

† After *L. Sabbati*, an Italian botanist of last century.

‡ From the Greek *mene*, a month, and *anthos*, a flower, in allusion to its emmenagogue virtues.

§ From *apo*, from, and *kyon*, a dog, it being thought poisonous to that animal.

|| The Greek name of *Æsculapius*, to whom the genus is dedicated.

tism and dysentery, in infusion or powder. We have six other species of this genus, all of which possess medicinal properties.

OLEACEÆ, Hoff.—(THE OLIVE TRIBE.)

LIGUSTRUM\* VULGARE, Linn., (Common Privet). The bark contains a peculiar substance, *ligustrin*, mannite, starch, sugar, extractive, tannin, bitter resin, etc. The berries are black, are cathartic, and used for dyeing. The leaves are astringent, as are the flowers; used in aphthous affections of the mouth and fauces as a wash. (*Am. Jour. Phar.*, XII, 347.)

APELATOUS EXOGENOUS PLANTS.

ARISTOLOCHIACEÆ, Juss.—(THE BITTERWORT TRIBE.)

ARISTOLOCHIA SERPENTARIA, Linn. (Virg. Snake Root). An invaluable diaphoretic, stimulant and tonic. Contains much volatile oil, and a yellow bitter principle; also, diuretic; particularly adapted to cases of typhus fever, and eruptive diseases where the grade of action is low, and the eruption slow in appearing. In powder, infusion or extract. Off. U. S. P.

ASARUM† CANADENSE, Linn., (Wild Ginger, Canada Snake Root). An aromatic, stimulant, tonic, containing a very fragrant essential oil, etc. Forms a pleasant adjuvant to tonic infusions and decoctions; in powder or tincture.

CHENOPODIACEÆ, Vent.—(THE GOOSEFOOT TRIBE.)

AMBRINA ANTHELMINTICA, Spach. (Worm Seed, Jerusalem Oak). A valuable anthelmintic, well adapted to cases of lumbrici in children, in doses of ℥j. to ʒj, followed by oil. The seeds of the *A. Ambrosioides* (Mexican Tea), is sometimes substituted for the true Worm seed, but the seeds have a weaker odor, and are less offensive. The oil is a good form of giving it. These plants would probably prove useful in nervous affections. Formerly *Chenopodium*.‡

\* From the Latin *liguro*, to tie, from its flexibility.

† From the Greek, *a not*, and *seria*, a band, because it was rejected from the garlands of flowers employed by the ancients.

‡ From *chenos*, a goose, and *pous*, foot, the leaves resembling the foot of this bird.

POLYGONACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE BUCKWHEAT TRIBE.)

POLYGONUM\* FAGOPYRUM, *Linn.*, (Buckwheat). Furnishes nutritive seeds, not so nutritive as the cereal grains, containing only half its weight of fecula.

P. HYDROPIPER, *Linn.*, (Smart Weed). Recommended by Dr. Eberle, and others, as a powerful emmenagogue; in form of saturated tincture; also, stimulant and diuretic. (See Eberle's Practice, 4th ed., v. 1, 441.)

P. AVICULARE, *Linn.*, (Knot Grass). A mild astringent, formerly employed as a styptic and vulnerary.

We have seventeen species of this genus growing in this State, the leaves of many of which are acrid and pungent, and will vesicate when applied to the skin. They lose this property, however, by drying. The roots of some of these species will probably be found good alteratives. Off. U. S. P.

RUMEX CRISPUS, *Linn.*, (Curled Dock). R. BRITANNICA, *Willd.*, (Yellow-rooted Water Dock). R. OBTUSIFOLIUS, (Broad-leaved Dock). R. VERTICILLATUS, (Long-stalked Water Dock). These species have similar medicinal properties, which are astringent and mild tonic; also alterative and depurative; useful in all chronic cases where sarsaparilla is usually recommended. The *Britannica* is the *Aquaticus*, or Water-Dock of Willdenow. The *Crispus*, and *Obtusifolius* combine laxative with tonic and astringent properties, like rhubarb. The *Crispus* is very useful in decoction or ointment in the treatment of itch, and other cutaneous diseases. The root forms a good dentifrice when the gums are spongy. Decoction best form of administration. The *R. Acetosella* or *Sheep Sorrel*, contains a large quantity of binxolate of potash, which renders it agreeably acid. Off. U. S. P.

PHYTOLACCACEÆ, *R. Br.*—(THE POKE WEED TRIBE.)

PHYTOLACCA† DECANDRA, *Linn.*, (Poke Weed). An acro-narcotic emetic, and purgative; as an emetic its operation is very slow, causing much nausea and distress; in small doses alterative; tincture useful in rheumatism. An ointment made of the leaves, is recommended in psora, tinea-capitis, and other cutaneous diseases. (*Am. Jour. of Pharm.* XV. 169.) Off. U. S. P.

\* From the Greek *polys*, many, and *gonu*, joint; the stem having numerous joints.

† From the Greek *phyton*, a herb, and *lachanon*, pot-herb, in allusion to the use made of the young herbs.

LAURACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE CINNAMON TRIBE.)

SASSAFRAS\* OFFICINALE, *Nees.*, (Sassafras). The bark and roots aromatic, stimulant, cordial and diaphoretic, used chiefly as an adjuvant to other preparations. Virtues reside in a *volatile oil*; has been recommended in chronic rheumatism, cutaneous eruptions, scorbutic and syphiloid affections. In infusion or oil. Off. U. S. P.

BENZOIN ODORIFERUM, *Nees.*, (Fever-bush, Spice-bush). A very agreeable stimulant, diaphoretic and aromatic tonic, a useful vermifuge, and drink in low fevers. The bush is recommended in intermittents. The oil of the berries is used as a stimulant. The berries have been employed in place of alspice. A decoction of the young branches is often used as a medicinal drink for horned cattle, in the spring of the year.

THYMELACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE MEZEREUM TRIBE.)

DIRCA† PALUSTRIS, *Linn.*, (Leather Wood, Moose Wood). Fresh bark vesicates the skin; the berries are emetic and poisonous. The bark forms a good stimulant masticatory in cases of toothache, &c. In decoction it proves expectorant and sudorific, similar to mezereon in its medical properties. Bigelow thinks it might be substituted for Senega.

ULMACEÆ, *Mirbel.*—(THE ELM TRIBE.)

ULMUS AMERICANA, *Linn.*, (White Elm, American Elm). U. FULVA, *Michx.*, (Slippery Elm, Red Elm.) U. RACEMOSA, (White Elm). The inner bark of the Fulva forms an elegant demulcent from its abundant mucilage; also nutritious, and forms a good substitute for *Gum Arabic*. Dr. Griffith recommends it as an alterative in cutaneous diseases; good bougies are formed of its bark. Externally applied as poultices and fomentations to inflamed parts.

CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS, *Linn.*, (Sugar-berry, Nettle Tree). The berries sweetish and somewhat astringent; useful in diarrhœa and dysentery.

EUPHORBACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE SPURGE TRIBE.)

EUPHORBIA CORALLATA, *Linn.*, (Flowering Spurge). E. HYPERICIFOLIA, *Linn.*, (Upright Spotted Spurge). E. IPECACUANHA, *Linn.*

\* From the Spanish *sassafras*, saxifrage, whose virtues have been attributed to this plant.

† From the Greek *dirke*, a fountain, the plant growing near water.

(Wild Ipecac). These species all furnish an acrid milky juice; all are emetic and cathartic, but too active for general use. In small doses, they are expectorant and diaphoretic. They cause much nausea and distress as emetics, and are apt to irritate and inflame the stomach. Given in infusion, decoction or powder of the root.—(See Wood & Bache.) Seven species are found in the State.

JUGLANDACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE WALNUT TREE.)

*JUGLANS NIGRA*, *Linn.*, (Black Walnut). Bark is acrid and styp-  
tic, used chiefly for making ink. The rind of the unripe fruit is used  
to cure ringworm and tetter; decoction as a vermifuge.

*J. CINEREA*, *Linn.*, (Butternut). The inner bark is a mild and  
pleasant cathartic, suited to cases of habitual constipation; recom-  
mended in dysentery. Barton thinks it anodyne. In decoction or  
extract the sap affords a laxative sugar. The fruit is used for pickles.  
The different species of *Carya*, *Hickory*, of which we have four, are  
worthy of notice, as their bark is astringent and possesses antispasmo-  
dic properties.

CUPULIFERÆ, *Richard.*—(THE NUT TRIBE.)

*CORYLUS\** *AMERICANA*, *Walt.*, (American Hazlenut). *C. ROSTRATA*,  
*Ait.*, (Beaked Hazlenut). The nut of the latter is of an ovate shape,  
surrounded by a coriaceous involucre, which is round; short and thick  
bristles, very similar to those of the *Cowhage*. Dr. Heubener, of  
Bethlehem, Pa., states that these possess similar anthelmintic virtues  
with the *Cowhage*, and equal to it in all respects. Given in molasses  
or syrup.

*QUERCUS†* *TINCTORIA*, *RUBRA*, *PALUSTRIS*, (Pin Oak). *ILICIFOLIA*,  
(Bear Oak, Scrub Oak). *Q. COCCINEA*, (Scarlet Oak). *ALBA*, (White  
Oak). *BICOLOR*, (Swamp White Oak). *MONTANA*, (Rock Chesnut  
Oak). *PRINOIDES*, (Chinquapin Oak), &c. These species, and sev-  
eral others we have not named, (15 in all,) are marked by astringency  
due to tannin and gallic acid, and have all been employed medici-  
nally. They are all, however, of more use in the arts than in medicine.  
The *Alba*, (White Oak,) is, perhaps, the most valuable as an internal as-  
tringent, and has been used advantageously in hemorrhages, diarrhœa,  
leucorrhœa, gonorrhœa, prolapsus ani, in relaxation of the fauces, and ul-  
cerated throat. Externally, to flabby ulcers, and as a poultice in gan-

\* From the Greek *korys*, a helmet or cap, in allusion to the shape of the invo-  
lucre.

† From the Celtic *quer*, beautiful, and *cuez*, a tree.

grene and mortification. The *Tinctoria*, (black oak,) contains most tannin and gallic acid; is exported largely for tinctorial purposes, under the name of *Quercitron*. Internally it is more irritating than the former, but preferable for external use, from its greater astringency.—The other species named can be substituted for this and the preceding, or for each other.

FAGUS\* FERRUGINEA, *Ait.*, (Beech). A narcotic principle, called *fagine*, is found in the husks of this species of Beech, and we have but one whose properties have not yet been fully tested.

CASTANEA† VESCA, *Michx.*, (Chesnut). Valuable for its nuts; and bark for tanning; contains gallic acid and tannin.

MYRICACEÆ, *L. C. Richard.*—(THE GALE TRIBE.)

MYRICA‡ CERIFERA, *Linn.*, (Bayberry Wax Myrtle). The fruit furnishes a wax chiefly of that peculiar ingredient of beeswax called *Myricin*, which is obtained by boiling the berries in water, when it separates and is skimmed from the surface; used for candles, and as the basis of a kind of soap; to purify, melt and strain, and cast into cakes, when it is of a pale, greyish green color; consisting of *cerin* 87, and *myricin* 12 per cent. Used in dysentery. The bark of the root is acrid and astringent, and in large doses emetic; a popular remedy in jaundice. (*Amer. Jour. Med. Science*, 4, 313.)

COMPTONIA§ ASPLENIFOLIA, *Ait.*, (Sweet Fern). A popular remedy in dysentery and diarrhœa; it is tonic and astringent, and possesses a resinous spicy odor.

BETULACEÆ, *L. C. Rich.*—(THE BIRCH TRIBE.)

BETULA|| LENTA, *Linn.*, (Cherry Birch, Black Birch). *B. EXCELSA*, *Ait.*, (Yellow Birch.) The fruit of these species is remarkable for its aromatic flavor, resembling that of the *Gaultheria Pracumbens*; a tea of it makes a very agreeable diaphoretic stimulating drink. The oil obtained from distilling the bark, is identical with that of the *Gaultheria*, (*Am. Jour. Phar.* xv. 243.) All the species afford a saccharine liquor; we have 6 species of birch.

ALNUS¶ SERRULATA, *Willd.*, (Common Alder). A very useful alter-

\* From the Greek *phago*, to eat, because the nuts were used as food.

† From *Castanea*, in Thessaly, celebrated for its chesnut tree.

‡ From the Greek *myro*, to flow, because found on the banks of rivers.

§ In honor of *Henry Compton*, Bishop of London.

|| From *batu*, the Celtic name for the birch.

¶ From the Celtic words, *al*, rear, and *lau*, the bank of a river.

ative and astringent, (see *N. York Jour. Med.* vol. 7 & 8,) leaves bitter and astringent; inner bark of root, emetic; a decoction of the leaves has been much used to suppress hemorrhage; very successful in hematuria; the bark has been found useful in intermittents, and the leaves as an external application in wounds and ulcers; also in dyspepsia and bowel complaints; an excellent tonic and alterative; has cured obstinate cutaneous affections, when all other remedies have failed; also scrofula.

SALICACEÆ, *L. C. Rich.*—(THE WILLOW TRIBE.)

*SALIX*\* *NIGRA*, *Marshall*, (Black Willow). We have 16 known species of *Salix* in this State, all of which are more or less medicinal, tonic and astringent; most of them contain *Salicine*; the *Nigra*, perhaps, in greatest quantity. The *Salicine* is valuable as a simple bitter, resembling gentian, but as an antiperiodic, it cannot compare with gentian. Quinine is often adulterated with it. Dose 10 to 30 grains.

*POPULUS*† *TREMULOIDES*, *Michx.*, (American Aspen). The bark has the same medicinal properties as the *Salix*, tonic and febrifuge.

*P. BALSAMIFERA*, *Linn.*, (Balsam Poplar, Tackamahac): Cathartic, and useful in gout and rheumatism. The buds are balsamic and aromatic; the juice is collected and used for diuretic and antiscorbutic purposes. An ointment may be prepared from the buds, which is useful in burns, bruises and tumors.

URTICACEÆ, *De Cand.*—(THE NETTLE TRIBE.)

*MORUS*‡ *RUBRA*, *Linn.*, (Red Mulberry). *M. ALBA*, *Linn.*, (White Mulberry). These species of Mulberry bear edible fruits, which are cooling and laxative; bark, anthelmintic and cathartic. The *Alba* furnishes food for the silk worm, and its root is a good vermifuge. The fruit of both species furnishes a grateful drink in fevers. A syrup of mulberries forms a grateful addition to gargles. The *Rubra* is indigestible, the *Alba* from China.

*URTICA*§ *DIOICA*, *Linn.*, (Stinging Nettle). *U. URENS*, *Linn.*, (Small Nettle). The leaves, seeds and roots, diuretic and astringent, formerly much used in jaundice, nephritic complaints, hemorrhages, scurvy, &c., good to excite external irritation in cases of palsy where there is loss of sensation.

\* From the Celtic *sal*, near, and *lis*, water, in allusion to the place of growth.

† From *populus*, the people, having been used in ancient times as a shade tree for public walks.

‡ From the Greek *moron*, the mulberry.

§ From the Latin *uro*, to burn, from its stinging properties.

**CANNABIS SATIVA**, *Linn.*, (Common Hemp). There is but one species of this plant, the *Sativa*, the *C. Indica* being a mere variety. It remains to be ascertained whether the American Hemp contains the same intoxicating and narcotic properties with that of India; we are inclined to think it lacks that resinous portion on which its peculiar medicinal virtues depend.

**HUMULUS\*** *LUPULUS*, *Linn.*, (Hop). A well-known tonic and narcotic; owes its properties to a peculiar principle, which resides in the yellow granular matter of the strobiles, called *Lupulin*, diuretic and decidedly antilithic. Lupulin is the best form of internal administration.

## CLASS II.—GYMNOSPERMOUS PLANTS.

### CONIFERÆ, *Juss.*—(THE PINE TRIBE.)

**PINUS†** *RIGIDA*, *Mill.*, (Pitch Pine). **P. STROBUS**, *Linn.*, (White Pine). **P. MITIS**, *Michx.*, (Yellow Pine.) **P. BALSAMEA**, *Linn.*, (Balsam Fir, Balm of Gilead Fir). **P. CANADENSIS**, *Linn.*, (Hemlock Spruce). **P. NIGRA**, *Ait.*, (Black or Double Spruce). **P. ALBA**, *Ait.*, (White or Single Spruce). **P. PENDULA**, *Ait.*, (Tamarack, American Larch). Turpentine and resin are obtained from all the above species in greater or less quantity. The *Rigida* abounds in turpentine; the *Balsamea* yields the *Canada Balsam*, which is largely exported for medicinal purposes; 650,000,000 of white pine lumber, (*P. Strob.*) are supposed to be annually obtained from this State, which requires 65,000 acres to produce. The turpentines are all diuretic, stimulant, expectorant; in large doses, purgative and vermifuge. They constitute the best class of alterative remedies in the chronic diseases of old people, and especially of the pulmonary and urinary organs; excellent external applications and revulsives.

**CYPRESSUS‡** *THUYOIDES*, *Linn.*, (White Cedar). An infusion of the tops, stomachic and diuretic.

**THUYA OCCIDENTALIS**, *Linn.*, (Common Arborvita Tree). Stimulant, diuretic, diaphoretic, and vermifuge; decoction of the strobiles is recommended as an astringent in diseases of the bowels.

**JUNIPERUS§** *VIRGINIANA*, *Linn.*, (Red Cedar). **J. COMMUNIS**, *Linn.*, (Common Juniper). The first species, *Virginiana*, is probably the *J. Sabina*, (Savine,) of Hooker; the leaves and berries possess the same medicinal properties, which are owing to volatile oil, wax, resin,

\* From *humu*, moist earth, because it prefers damp soils.

† From the Celtic *pin* or *pen*, a rock or crag; in allusion to its usual locality.

‡ From the Island of *Cyprus*, where the tree abounds.

§ From the Celtic *juneprus*, rough or rude, the character of the genus.

gum, &c. Both are stimulating diuretics, and decided alteratives in all diseases of mucous membranes; also powerfully emmenagogue and anthelmintic; used as an ointment to promote the discharge from blistered surfaces.

*TAXUS*\* *CANADENSIS*, Willd., (American Yew). A resinous tree; the leaves of the European species, *Baccata*, which, according to *Michaux*, is identical with the present; are said to act in small doses, like *Digitalis* in reducing the force of the circulation. We hope trials will be made to test the virtues of this plant. The ancients considered the tree poisonous, especially during the season of flowering.

### CLASS III.—ENDOGENOUS, OR MONOCOTYLEDONOUS PLANTS.

#### ARACEÆ, Juss.—(THE ARUM TRIBE.)

*ARISEMA* *TRIPHYLLUM*, (Indian Turnip). Formerly the *Arum*. The tuber very active when fresh, owing to a volatile, inflammable principle, soluble in water and alcohol. When dry it furnishes a large quantity of nutritious starch, resembling *sago*. When recent, used as a carminative stimulant in flatulent colic, etc. Has some reputation in bronchitis.

*CALLA* *PALUSTRIS*, Linn., (Water Arum). The Rhizomes are acrid and caustic, but on drying, grinding, and washing, furnish a very pure starch, which in the north of Europe is made into palatable bread. Diaphoretic when fresh.

*SYMPLOCARPUS*† *FETIDUS*, *Salisb.*, (Skunk Cabbage). Root and seeds, narcotic and stimulant; very acrid when fresh, which is lost by drying. Has been used in asthma, rheumatism, dropsy, hysteria, and chronic catarrh; the leaves to keep up a discharge from a blistered surface.

*ACORUS*‡ *CALAMUS*, Linn., (Sweet Flag). A pleasant stimulant tonic and stomachic. A good adjuvant to bark and quinine in intermittents. Used in flatulent colic and atonic states of digestive organs.

#### ALISMADEÆ.—(THE WATER PLANTAIN TRIBE.)

*ALISMA*§ *PLANTAGO*, Linn., (Water Plantain). Acrid, and resembling the *Ranunculus* in its properties. In Russia it is believed to be an

\* From *toxon*, bow, because the wood was used for that purpose by the Greeks.

† From the Greek *symplōke*, connexion, and *karpos*, fruit, the berries being united.

‡ From the Greek *a*, without, and *kore*, the pupil of the eye, having been used for sore eyes.

§ From the Celtic *alis*, water, its place of growth.

antidote in hydrophobia. The Kalmucks use it as food when dried, as it contains much fecula. Recommended in diseases of urinary organs.

SAGITTARIA\* SAGITIFOLIA, *Linn.*, (Arrow Head). Has a fleshy rhizome, which is used for food by the Indians; abounds in starch; edible even in the fresh state. Sometimes several inches in diameter.

CYPRIPEDIUM† PUBESCENS, *Swartz*, (Yellow Lady's Slipper). A very energetic antispasmodic and nervine, nearly equal to Valerian. The root is employed. We have used it in hysteria and other nervous diseases with striking benefit, in the form of powder and infusion. The *Spectabile*, (Showy Lady's Slipper,) and *Acaule*, (Noah's Ark,) have the same properties.

#### IRIDACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE IRIS TRIBE.)

IRIS VERSICOLOR, *Linn.*, (Blue Flag). A very certain and mild cathartic; in small doses diuretic, in larger, emetic. As a cathartic, the powdered root is equal to any of our indigenous articles. (See *N. Y. Jour. Med.*, vol. ix.) Fresh root has a sweetish sub-acrid taste, and a faint, disagreeable odor; both nearly dissipated by drying. Take the fresh-dug roots, cut into slices, dry in an oven heated to about 100°, then pulverize, and keep in close-stopped bottles. Dose of powder, as cathartic, 10 to 15 grs. It should be combined with some stimulant, as cayenne, ginger, or myrrh. These prevent nausea and griping. It operates as a mild yet effectual cathartic, producing copious discharges well tinged with bile. An alterative in smaller doses, 2 to 4 grs. Considered by some equal to jalap, and might be substituted for it in some cases.

#### SMILACEÆ, *R. Brown.*—(THE SMILAX TRIBE.)

TRILLIUM‡ CERNUUM, *Linn.*, (Nodding Three-leaved Night Shade, Birth Root, or Birth-wort). T. ERECTUM, *Linn.*, (False Wake Robin). T. GRANDIFLORUM, *Salisb.*, (Large-flowered Trillium). All these species are medicinal, possessing alterative, tonic and astringent virtues. The fresh roots have an aromatic taste, and the odor of turpentine, causing an acrid sensation in the mouth. They are much used in hemorrhagic cases, and with benefit by botanic doctors, and in domestic practice. I found the Indians on Lake Superior (1846) using the root of the *Cernuum* to facilitate child-birth; it is in common use among

\* From the Latin *sagitta*, arrow, the shape of the leaf.

† From the Greek *Kypris*, Venus, and *podeon*, a shoe—i. e., the slipper of Venus.

‡ From the Latin *triplix*, triple, most parts of the plant being in threes.

them for this purpose, as well as for all kinds of discharges in females. This plant deserves farther investigation.

*SMILACINA RACEMOSA*, *Desf.*, (Wild Spikenard). A mild alterative, diuretic, and diaphoretic.

*POLYGONATUM MULTIFLORUM*, (Solomon's Seal). Deobstruent, and slightly astringent. Deserves investigating.

*SMILAX\** *ROTUNDIFOLIA*, *Linn.*, (Green Briar). *S. HISPIDA*, *Muhl.*, (Hispid Green Briar). *S. SPINULOSA*, *Smith*, (Spinulose Green Briar). *S. HERBACEA*, *Linn.*, (Carrion Flower). All these species of Green Briar are believed to possess alterative and diaphoretic properties, and are mentioned for the purpose of directing further attention to them.

LILIACEÆ, *Juss.*—(THE LILY TRIBE.)

*LILIUM†* *PHILADELPHICUM*, *Linn.*, (Red Lily). *L. CANADENSE*, *Linn.*, (Wild Yellow Lily). *L. SUPERBUM*, *Linn.*, (Turk's Cap). The roots, or bulbs, contain much mucilage, are slightly acrid; the active principle is volatile; used in domestic practice in dropsy and to form emollient cataplasms, boiled in milk. An ointment is also prepared from the flowers, which has soothing properties.

*ERYTHRONIUM‡* *AMERICANUM*, *Arn.*, (Dog's Tooth Violet). The recent root emetic, in doses of 20 to 30 grs. When cooked, the bulbs are edible. The leaves are more active than the roots. Dr. Bigelow supposes that this plant might supply the place of *Colchicum*. In domestic practice the leaves and roots are used as an application to scrofulous sores, for which purpose they are boiled in milk.

*ALLIUM§* *CANADENSE*, *Kalm*, (Meadow Garlic). *A. VINEALE*, *Linn.*, (Wild Garlic). *A. TRIOCCUM*, *Ait.*, (Wild Leek). *A. CERNUUM*, *Rath.*, (Wild Onion). All contain a volatile, acrid oil, which render the bulbs, in a fresh state, rubefacient and revulsive. Internally they prove expectorant, diuretic, and diaphoretic, like squills. The species *Canadense*, is fully as active as the cultivated garlic, and may be substituted for it. The onion, *A. Cepa*, possesses similar properties, but much milder.

*ALETIS FARINOSA*, *Linn.*, (Star Grass, Colic Root, Blazing Star, Ague Root, etc.). The root contains a very bitter resinous principle, soluble in alcohol, slightly in water. Tonic, and stomachic, emetic and cathartic, slightly narcotic. Dose of powder, 10 grs. A popular remedy in colic, dropsy, and rheumatism.

\* From the Greek *smile*, a grater, from its being rough with prickles.

† From the Celtic *li*, white, that being the color of one of the principal species.

‡ From the Greek *erythias*, red, from the spots on the leaves.

§ From the Celtic word *all*, signifying hot, or acrid.

MELANTHACEÆ, *R. Brown.*—(THE COLCHICUM TRIBE.)

**VERATRUM\*** **VIRIDE**, (White Hellebore, Indian Poke). The root—this contains *veratria*, in the form of a *super gallate*; *fatty-matter*, containing a volatile acid; *extractive*, and a principle called *jervin*, crystallizable, (*Griffith*). An acid irritant hydragogue cathartic and emetic. In small doses alterative and deobstruent. Useful in gout, rheumatism; and extract, as an ointment, in cutaneous diseases; decoction for destroying vermin, etc.

**HELONIUS** **DIOICA**, *Pursh*, (Unicorn Plant). The root, a popular tonic and anthelmintic. The tincture is a good stomachic and alterative.

FILICES, *R. Brown.*—(THE FERN TRIBE.)

**POLYPODIUM†** **VULGARE**, *var. AMERICANUM*, *Hook.* (Common Polypody). We have four species of Polypod. possessing slight medicinal properties. The *rhizome*, diuretic and expectorant; when dried, the root is bitter; formerly much used as a purgative in obstructions of the liver. The *P. filix-mas* is not found in the State.

**ADIANTUM** **PEDATUM**, *Linn.*, (Maidenhair). Demulcent and pectoral; forms a mild expectorant syrup, (*Capillaire*), and a vehicle for administering other remedies.

These two species are allied, but easily distinguished. There is no doubt but that both possess the same medicinal properties. The *Aspidium filix-mas* has been mistaken by several other American botanists besides Pursh, but they have mistaken for it the *A. goldianum*, or *A. dilatatum*.

**ASPIDIUM** **GOLDIANUM**, *Hook.* (Goldie's Shield Fern). This is the *A. filix-mas* of Pursh, *Polypodium filix-mas* of *Linn.*; it is not found in North America. We have several species of *Lycopodium* possessing medicinal properties, which have not yet been investigated.

Such are some of the articles composing the *Materia Medica* of the State of New-York; but they by no means embrace all. Under this head might be ranked the various cultivated cereals, the invaluable *Zea*, (Indian corn,) the *Avena*, (oat,) *Triticum*, (wheat,) *Hordeum*, (barley,) *Secale*, (rye). The sugar of the maple has medicinal properties of no little value. The *Fuci*, (sea-weeds,) furnish soda, as well as iodine,

\* From the Latin *vere atrum*, truly black, in allusion to the color of the root.

† From the Greek *polys*, many, and *pous*, foot, in allusion to the feet-like branches of the root.

in any quantity, a very important article in medicine. Some of this class, as the *Alaria esculenta* of Great Britain, will also be found edible, and mucilaginous, like *Chondrus crispus*. Our *Fungi* have been as yet very imperfectly investigated, but it is well known that we have a considerable number that are wholesome and edible; while a still larger number are poisonous; and we have no means of distinguishing them, except actual experience. Griffith states that the same species may be wholesome or poisonous, according to circumstances. The *secale cornutum* deserves mention, as an important agent in the list of our materia medica; as do also some of our *lichens*, possessing both alimentary and medicinal properties. It will probably be found that we have some not far inferior in these respects to the *Cetraria islandica*, (Iceland Moss,) or the *Gyrophora proboscidea*, (Tripe de Roche,) of the arctic regions. These still remain to be investigated, and furnish a wide field for the cultivators of this department of Medical science.

NATURAL ORDERS,

CONTAINING NON-MEDICINAL PLANTS.

|                     | No. of<br>Species. |                      | No. of<br>Species. |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Menispermaceæ,   | 1                  | 28. Amaranthaceæ,    | 4                  |
| 2. Nelumbiaceæ,     | 1                  | 29. Santalaceæ,      | 2                  |
| 3. Saraceniaceæ,    | 1                  | 30. Eleagnaceæ,      | 1                  |
| 4. Capparidaceæ,    | 1                  | 31. Laururaceæ,      | 1                  |
| 5. Cistaceæ,        | 6                  | 32. Cerotophyllaceæ, | 1                  |
| 6. Droseraceæ,      | 4                  | 33. Callitrichaceæ,  | 1                  |
| 7. Elatynaceæ,      | 1                  | 34. Podostomaceæ,    | 1                  |
| 8. Illecebraceæ,    | 4                  | 35. Empetraceæ,      | 2                  |
| 9. Portulaccaceæ,   | 3                  | 36. Balsamifluæ,     | 2                  |
| 10. Tiliaceæ,       | 1                  | 37. Platanaceæ,      | 1                  |
| 11. Limnanthaceæ,   | 1                  | 38. Linaceæ,         | 2                  |
| 12. Aceraceæ,       | 5                  | 39. Typhaceæ,        | 4                  |
| 13. Melastomaceæ,   | 1                  | 40. Naiadaceæ,       | 13                 |
| 14. Cactaceæ,       | 1                  | 41. Hydrochardaceæ,  | 3                  |
| 15. Grossulaceæ,    | 5                  | 42. Orchidaceæ,      | 38                 |
| 16. Cucurbitaceæ,   | 2                  | 43. Hypoxidaceæ,     | 1                  |
| 17. Crassulaceæ,    | 4                  | 44. Dioscoreaceæ,    | 1                  |
| 18. Dipsaceæ,       | 1                  | 45. Pontederiaceæ,   | 3                  |
| 19. Campanulaceæ,   | 4                  | 46. Juncaceæ,        | 18                 |
| 20. Primulaceæ,     | 11                 | 47. Corumelynaceæ,   | 2                  |
| 21. Lentibulaceæ,   | 2                  | 48. Xyridaceæ,       | 1                  |
| 22. Acanthaceæ,     | 1                  | 49. Eriocaulonaceæ,  | 1                  |
| 23. Pedaliaceæ,     | 1                  | 50. Cyperaceæ,       | 159                |
| 24. Hydrophyllaceæ, | 3                  | 51. Gramineæ,        | 124                |
| 25. Polemoniaceæ,   | 3                  |                      |                    |
| 26. Diapensiaceæ,   | 1                  | Total,               | 462                |
| 27. Convolvulaceæ,  | 7                  |                      |                    |

## NATURAL ORDERS,

CONTAINING MEDICINAL PLANTS.

|                     | No. of<br>Species |                     | No. of<br>Species. |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ranunculacæ,     | 38                | 40. Ebenacæ,        | 1                  |
| 2. Magnoliacæ,      | 3                 | 41. Plantaginacæ,   | 6                  |
| 3. Anonaciæ,        | 1                 | 42. Plumbaginacæ,   | 1                  |
| 4. Berberidacæ,     | 4                 | 43. Orobanchacæ,    | 3                  |
| 5. Nymphaeacæ,      | 3                 | 44. Bignoniacæ,     | 1                  |
| 6. Papavaracæ,      | 2                 | 45. Scrophulariacæ, | 38                 |
| 7. Fumariacæ,       | 7                 | 46. Verbenacæ,      | 5                  |
| 8. Cruciferæ,       | 31                | 47. Labiatæ,        | 45                 |
| 9. Violacæ,         | 16                | 48. Boraginacæ,     | 14                 |
| 10. Hypericacæ,     | 10                | 49. Solanacæ        | 8                  |
| 11. Caryophyllacæ,  | 25                | 50. Gentianacæ,     | 16                 |
| 12. Malvacæ,        | 8                 | 51. Apocynacæ,      | 2                  |
| 13. Linacæ,         | 2                 | 52. Asclepiadacæ,   | 10                 |
| 14. Geraniacæ,      | 5                 | 53. Oleacæ,         | 4                  |
| 15. Oxalidacæ,      | 3                 | 54. Aristolochiacæ, | 2                  |
| 16. Balsaminacæ,    | 1                 | 55. Chenopodiacæ,   | 17                 |
| 17. Anacardiæ,      | 6                 | 56. Polygonacæ,     | 22                 |
| 18. Xanthoxylacæ,   | 2                 | 57. Phytolaccacæ,   | 1                  |
| 19. Hippocastinacæ, | 1                 | 58. Lauracæ,        | 2                  |
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| 33. Caprifoliacæ,   | 24                | 72. Smilacæ,        | 14                 |
| 34. Compositæ,      | 160               | 73. Liliacæ,        | 12                 |
| 35. Rubiacæ,        | 13                | 74. Melanthiacæ,    | 10                 |
| 36. Valerianacæ,    | 2                 | 75. Filices,        | 41                 |
| 37. Lobeliacæ,      | 7                 |                     |                    |
| 38. Ericacæ,        | 42                | Total,              | 1020               |
| 39. Aquifoliacæ,    | 6                 |                     |                    |

We thus have SEVENTY-FIVE NATURAL ORDERS containing medicinal plants, including 1020 species, a part of which only are yet known to possess remedial properties. We have also FIFTY-ONE ORDERS, which include no very active medicinal plants, embracing 462 species. Many of these, however, as the Grass and Cypress tribe, embrace genera of a medicinal character.

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