

PREFACE.

THIS publication is intended to serve as a complete list of the Native Drugs to be found in the bazaars of Bombay, and at the same time as a catalogue of medicinal substances which have been already sent to the Netley Hospital.

The plants furnishing these drugs are classified according to the Natural system; and each article entered in the list is treated of as follows:—Botanical name, Vernacular name in the English and Marathi characters, the part used, and the medicinal properties and uses.

While no pretence is made to original investigation, the author conceives it proper to state that some of the drugs have been and for the first time correctly identified;* and besides, a few fresh drugs are here introduced to notice, which will not be found in other catalogues.†

The identification of ordinary bazaar specimens is often a matter of great difficulty, owing to dessication, decay, and partial destruction of the more tender examples, and this circumstance will amply account for some errors which have crept into former lists, as regards not only species but even families of plants.

Reference is everywhere made to the Standard Works on Indian Botany, including the later publications of Drury, Birdwood, Hensbury, etc. The Pharmacopœia of India (1868) and the Nighanta Prakâsha have also been freely made use of, and the author would gratefully add his acknowledgments for much verbal information of great value which his esteemed friend Dr. W. Dymock has favoured him with. For spontaneous and most useful aid he is greatly indebted to his friend Mr. N. M. Khansaheb who is an enthusiastic and excellent botanist.

Transliteration of the Vernacular names into English has been done according to the method of Prof. Benfey, and there are here

* Bâdaçahi sâlam, Çâhturâh, Gahulâ, Gaja pîmpalî, Hamâmâ Hathâ jodî, Jhîjîra gâthî kirâyata, Kanochhî, Nâgopuri bachanâga, Naravela, Patâla tumbadî, Râsnâ, Sekâkul-misrî, Sukâyî, Tukhum-i-rehân, Utañgana Vakhimâ, Vekhrâ, Vardbârâ, Zerâvând-mudheraj.

† Achhara boñdi, Asanâ, Bahufhali, Balabija, Bañdhâro, Bhuiteradâ, Çânkeçvara, Chakrabheñda, Chinai salat, Devakâpusa, Gorakha mundi, Hurhuryâ, Jangali methî Kadavî nâyî, Kâmunî, Kanchrî, Khardî, Kosimbela, Luntaka, Phartarsuvâ, Pivalabhângrâ, Ratolyâ, Rojamârî, Surpana, Tivara, Vajradâñtî, Vâkerî mûla, Vanajâyî.

some instances in which the equivalents of Sanscrit or Marathi letters and English are given in unusual detail for the purpose of ensuring correct accent :—

अ—a, आ-â, इ-i, ई-î, उ-u, ऊ-û, ए-e, ऐ-ai,
क-ka, छ-chha, ट-ta, त-ta, ड-da, द-da, ण-na, न-na,
श-ç, ष-sh, स-s, ल-l, ळ-l, अं- m̄ or ñ.

Such plants as in the fresh state only are employed in native medicine are enumerated in a separate list. The majority of them grow near to Bombay and may be found in the shops of the herbalists.

Finally the author would express his hope, that under favourable circumstances he may be able to add yet further to the fund of knowledge by the production of a large work, which may take its place besides our later Pharmacopœias and indicate more clearly than has hitherto been done, those articles of the Indian Materia Medica, which might usefully and successfully replace foreign drugs now imported into this country: he will not be dissatisfied, however, if the following attempt to furnish a complete and accurate list of Indigenous native drugs of Bombay, shall meet the approbation of fellow-workers elsewhere!

Girgaum,

SAKHARAM ARJUN.

1st February 1879.
