

PHARMACOPŒIAL VEGETABLE DRUGS.

qualities naturally became a favorite in Europe in the days of heroic medication. The early Spanish voyagers learned of its qualities from the natives, and in the sixteenth century carried large quantities to Europe. Monardes (447), in 1565, mentions a cathartic under the name Mechoacan rhubarb, or root, which some believe to have been jalap, but this Flückiger (239) discredits, because Colon, an apothecary of Lyons, in 1619, states that jalap was then newly brought to France. Flückiger also accepts that both drugs were well known in 1610, although often confused. Owing to this confusion between the two bulbs, one was called *black mechoacan*, while the other was known as *white jalap*. Strangely enough, the exact botanical source of jalap remained a question until 1829, when Dr. Coxe, of Philadelphia, author of *Coxe's American Dispensatory*, identified the drug from living plants sent to him from Mexico, and published descriptions, with colored plates, in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, 1829. This celebrated cathartic, so much used by licensed physicians and in domestic medication, is to be credited to the natives of Central America, whose employment of the drug introduced it to European commercial adventurers who, as a matter of business, made it known to the professions of medicine and pharmacy.

KINO

Kino is the dried juice of a handsome timber tree, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, a native of the southern parts of the Indian Peninsula and Ceylon. It is also obtained from several other trees which partake of the qualities of an astringent drug. One of these, *Pterocarpus indicus*, is a tree of Southern India, the Malay Peninsula, and the Philippine Islands. The drug, used by natives from time immemorial, was introduced into commerce by Fothergill (244), 1757. It came from the River Gambia, in Western Africa, where it had been previously noticed by Moore (449), who in his "Travels Into the Inland Parts of Africa," 1737, mentioned the product under the name *kano*. Mungo Park, 1805, sent specimens of the tree to England, and from that date African kino has been a regular product of the English drug market. According to Duncan (202) in the Edinburgh Dispensatory, 1803, kino as found in England was an African product, but he recognizes a variety, indistinguishable from this, coming from Jamaica. In the 1811 edition of the same work he asserts that the African drug is out of market, and that the East India Company now supply the market from Jamaica and New South Wales. It is evident that, as with *Krameria*, many species and varieties of the tree, native to widely different sections of the world, produce the substance known as kino, which, aside from the East India tree, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, are accepted as being very nearly identical with the material yielded by the kino tree of tropical Africa. Kino is obtained by incising the tree and removing the red jelly as it exudes, then drying it by exposure to the air. It is mildly astringent, and has been used in the manufacture of wine.

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KRAMERIA

The shrub *Krameria triandra* is native to the bare and sandy slopes of the Bolivian and Peruvian Cordilleras, growing at from 3,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level. It is often found in great abundance, standing in solid beds scarcely a foot high, and peculiarly attractive by reason of its silver-gray foliage and starlike flowers. The root of commerce comes from the north and east of Lima, and the northern part of Peru. The Spanish botanist Hipolito Ruiz (562, 563), in 1784, observed the native women of Huanuco and Lima using this drug as a tooth preservative and an astringent. On his return to Europe, in 1796, he introduced the root into Spain, and from that country it gradually spread throughout Europe. The first that reached England, however, was as part of the cargo of a Spanish prize, a part of which came into the hands of Dr. Reece (540), who recommended it to the profession, 1806, in his *Medicinal and Chirurgical Review*, London. There are other species and kinds of rhatany, one being investigated by the writer of this article some years ago, as found in Florida, the qualities of which could scarcely be distinguished from those of the astringent South American drug. This drug was also noticed by Dr. E. M. Hall, of Chicago, a well-known Homœopathic author. Seemingly the species of rhatany are all of similar nature and are dependent upon a kindly, astringent, red tannate.

LACTUCARIUM

Several species of *lactuca*, native to the Old World, yield the juice which, when dried, is known as *Lactucarium*, an extract known also under the name Lettuce Opium. The fact that lettuce eaten frequently induces drowsiness, was known in ancient times, and its reputation in this direction led Dr. Coxe (171), of Philadelphia, to suggest the collecting of the juice, after the manner employed in the making of opium. His experiments were published in 1799 under the title "Lettuce Opium." Since that date others writing on the subject created quite a demand for the lactucarium thus produced. It will be seen that the introduction of this substance to medicine came through usual empirical channels.

LAPPA, (BURDOCK)

This widely distributed plant known under several botanical names, such as *Lappa minor* (De Candolle) *Lappa major* (Gaertner) and *Lappa tomentosa* (Lamarck) is now official as *Arctium Lappa*. The commercial name *Burdock* seems, however, so expressive as to have become an universal appellation, and needs no interpretation.

The root of this plant has been ever used in its native haunts, which cover much of Africa, Europe, and adjacent lands. Like the honey-bee it follows civilization, and like the English sparrow craves the company of man. Its burr journeys with man into all inhabited countries, and whether or not it be a welcome guest, its broad leaves are