

PHARMACOPŒIAL VEGETABLE DRUGS.

to Japan, North and South America, the Falkland Islands, and even to the Cape of Good Hope, being so widely distributed as to have led, naturally, to its therapeutic reputation in common life in all parts of the world. The spores of lycopodium have been used in domestic therapy as an application to fresh wounds, and have thus a reputation as an absorbent styptic. Official in pharmacy in the middle of the seventeenth century, the English druggists seem not to have included the powder in their list of drugs before 1692, nor has it been official in any of the London pharmacopœias. Lycopodium is employed in Homeopathic and Eclectic medication, and in connection with shellac and earthy salts is also used in large quantity in the making of different colored signal fires, as well as those for evening celebrations.

MALTUM

The time of the introduction of malt (*Hordeum distichon*) antedates the lore of systematic medication. Germinated barley, kiln-dried, has been employed in the making of malted liquors since a very early date, and malt liquors have been in domestic use, both as a beverage and an extract, for a very long period. The introduction of malt into the pharmacopœia resulted from the empirical use of the semi-proprietary "Extracts of Malt," which a few years after the middle of the last century became popular in domestic as well as in professional use. Its introduction to medicine is, however (as with many other substances of merit or otherwise), due largely to the efforts of manufacturing pharmacists.

MANNA

Manna of commerce is supplied by the manna ash, *Fraxinus ornus*, of the Southern Tyrol, Italy, Switzerland, Asia Minor, and the mountainous islands of the Mediterranean and countries adjacent. In Central Europe it grows as an ornamental tree, the foliage being in great variation in shape of leaflets, and the fruit diverse in form. According to Flückiger and Hanbury (240), previous to the fifteenth century the manna of Europe was imported from the East, and was not derived from the manna ash. In early days manna was a natural exudation, much scarcer than at present, and much more expensive, the increase in the production being now artificially increased and also marked by a decrease in quality. During the sixteenth century the plan referred to above was devised of incising the trunk and branches to produce a more copious supply of the gum, thus largely increasing the amount of the market supply, although the method was strenuously opposed by legislative enactments. The name *Gibelmanna*, *manna-mountain*, by which an eminence of the Madonia range of mountains in Sicily is known, indicates that this mountain furnished manna during the days of the Saracens in Sicily. Manna has been used as a domestic remedy from all time as a gentle laxative, and, as mentioned in our article on *Spigelia*, is supposed, in domestic medicine in this country, to modify the griping qualities of a mixture of senna

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and jalap. Its domestic use in America came through European home medication.

Professor Flückiger (see Preface) arranged with this writer to give unitedly the record of the American drugs and plants. One substance considered was "American Manna," the article being printed in the *Am. Journ. Pharm.*, 1897, pp. 1 to 10.

MARRUBIUM

Horehound, *Marrubium vulgare*, is indigenous to Europe, but has been naturalized in America, where it is now very common. Its use as a bitter decoction led to its early introduction into domestic medicine, as well as to its popular use as a bitter flavor in candy. Probably the well-known horehound candy may be cited as a domestic medicine that has become popular as a confection. The date of the use of horehound as a sweetened domestic tea must have been very early in the records of European home medication.

MASTICHE

Mastic, *Pistacia lentiscus*, is an evergreen shrub, native to the Mediterranean shores, from Syria to Spain, being found also on the adjacent islands as far as the Canaries. The collection of mastic, however, is localized to the northern part of the Island of Scio, where from all time the tree has been known, exuding most abundantly the resinous tar that, when dried, is known as mastic. The origin of its use is lost in antiquity. Theophrastus (633), fourth century B. C., mentions it, and both Dioscorides (194) and Pliny (514) refer to it, in connection with the Island of Scio, or Chios. The writer of this article made a study of mastic during a journey to the Orient, but as yet has not published the paper. By distillation with alcohol, mastic produces a drink, this also being described in the paper in preparation, the drink being probably of great antiquity, and known to the Greeks and Romans. The use of mastic in medicine followed its empirical employment as a breath sweetener (it being sold in all Oriental bazaars for this purpose) and as a flavor for cordials and other drinks. Perhaps the first record of its authoritative employment in medicine is about the thirteenth century, by the Welsh "Meddygon Myddfai" (507) (see Note, p. 1), as an ingredient of ointments.

MATICO

Matico, *Piper angustifolium*, is a shrub native to Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, and other South American countries. Its qualities are said to have been discovered by a Spanish soldier named Matico, the legend being that he applied some of the leaves to a wound, and observed that the bleeding was thereby stopped. This legend, current in South America, gave to the shrub the name *soldier's herb*, or tree. (See *Stramonium*.) It is probable, however, that he learned of its native use by the Indians. In the beginning of the nineteenth century matico came to the attention of the profession of medicine in North

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America and in Europe, being conspicuously introduced by Jeffreys (340), a physician of Liverpool, who commended it, 1839, as a styp-tic and astringent. The introduction of the drug must, however, be considered as empirical, through the infusion of the leaves used by the soldier.

MATRICARIA

Matricaria chamomilla, German chamomile, is the cultivated form of *Chrysanthemum parthenium*, being cultivated for domestic use, in which it is distinguished from the *Anthemis nobilis*, or Roman chamomile. It has been in domestic use so long as to have made it familiar to all German housewives, and considerable demand has been created for it in sections of America where Germans have settled. It is a home remedy of antiquity.

MEL

Honey is a saccharine substance, generally collected by the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, from the nectariferous glands of flowers and deposited in the comb by the insect when it reaches its hive. It is familiar to all civilized peoples as well as to the natives of many sections of the world. In some parts of the tropics wild honey is an article of importance. Crude honey comb was observed by us as one of the articles of export from Aden, Arabia, coming there by caravan from the interior of Arabia, as well as being brought from Somali Land, Africa. The domestic record of honey is lost in antiquity, it being mentioned in many early works, including the Bible, both New and Old Testaments, and such Oriental works as the "Arabian Nights" (88). In the making of confectionery and in domestic empirical medicine, honey has of course been a constant and a natural sweetener. Certain kinds of honey, such as the honey made from the opium poppy ("mad honey," 388c), or from the flowers of the wild jasmine, possess more or less narcotic action, which quality has never yet been intentionally utilized in medicine. Such compounds as honey of rose, honey of borax, and the like, came from the domestic use of honey; such confections preceded its use by licensed or orthodox physicians. "*Zardah* (yellow rice) is a word still used in Turkey, and refers to a dish of rice dressed in honey and saffron." *Burton*.

MENTHA PIPERITA

Peppermint is found throughout North America as well as England and the Continent. As described by Ray (536), the clergyman botanist, in his *Historia Plantarum*, 1704, it is called "*Mentha palustris*—*Peper-Mint*," and is recommended by him as a remedy for weakness of the stomach and for diarrhea. Its cultivation was extensive in some parts of England as early as 1750, the herb being carried to London for distillation and the making of the oil. Peppermint is a favorite domestic herb used in decoction as a stimulant and also as a flavor. Fresh mint is employed to flavor a popular Kentucky alcoholic

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beverage made of whisky, known as mint julep. This should be made by *inverting* in the sweetened diluted whisky a small bunch of young mint sprouts, thus getting the delicate aroma of the leaves, but not the bitterness of the broken stems.

MENTHA VIRIDIS

Spearmint is common throughout Europe, Asia, and North America, and, escaping from cultivation, is found wild throughout most of the temperate regions of the world. Parkinson, 1640, speaks of it as a garden plant only (492), and its mention in early mediæval lists of plants demonstrates that it was cultivated in the convent gardens of the ninth century. Turner's *Herball* (656), 1568, calls it *Spere Mynte*. Its use is largely that of a domestic and popular flavor in confectionery and as a perfume. In the form of an aromatic tea it has been a great favorite in domestic medicine, as is true also of its harsher relative, peppermint.

MEZEREUM

Daphne mezereum is an acrid shrub familiar to persons conversant with domestic medicine in mediæval English times, being employed by the herbalists, and also, somewhat, by the medical profession of that day. It was recognized in Culpeper (175) as an acrid substance, generally applied externally, although it was given internally in dropsy and some other affections, about a dram of the dried bark of the tree being mixed with three parts of water, and taken internally. Hooper (325) in his *Medical Dictionary* states that a prevailing method of preparation was to macerate thin slices of the bark of the fresh root in vinegar and apply it externally. In Stephenson and Churchill's *Medical Botany* (614a) a Mr. Pierson serves as authority for a Dr. Russel, who, as did Mr. Pierson, reviewed the uses of the drug as a substitute for mercury and as an application in scrofulous and cutaneous affections, but with decided opposition to its use, on account of its exceeding acridity, a refreshing innovation in former orthodox medication. This imported, disagreeable drug crept into the United States Pharmacopeia and American practice by reason of the fact that it was made a constituent of the Compound Syrup of Sarsaparilla.

MOSCHUS

Musk, *Moschus moschiferus*, was described by Aëtius (6), who lived about the middle of the sixth century A. D. Benjamin de Tudela (55a), who traveled through the East about 1160-1173 A. D., also mentions musk, stating that its native home is in Thibet. Its sale in Egypt was mentioned by Leo Africanus (378b), 1526. Its introduction to medicine, however, came at a much earlier period, its employment in that direction following the commendation of Aëtius (6). Its therapeutic use was due to its introduction from the Arabians. Tavernier (1676), asserted (627) by Eugene Rimmel (552) to be the first European traveler to mention this drug, reports that he bought 7,673

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Pods of the musk-deer, indicating its abundance at that date. The use of musk as a perfume antedates European record, whilst its introduction as a stimulant has no record of its origin. This writer learned during his services in prescription pharmacies that when tincture of musk was prescribed, the patient was expected to die.

MYRISTICA

The tree yielding nutmeg, *Myristica fragrans*, is native to New Guinea and islands of the Malay Archipelago, from whence it has been introduced to Sumatra, Brazil, the West Indies, and other countries favorable to its cultivation. It has been asserted that the nutmeg was not known to the ancients, but von Martius (409), *Flora Brasiliensis*, 1860, contends that it was mentioned in the "Comedies of Plautus," about two centuries B. C. The nutmeg has been an article of import and export from Aden since the middle of the twelfth century, and by the end of that century both nutmeg and mace had reached Northern Europe. This spice came naturally into domestic culinary use, it being classed with mace, cloves, calamus, etc. Its use in legalized medicine, also, has been chiefly in the direction of a flavor to other substances, and followed similar empirical preparations.

MYRRHA

Myrrh, a gum-resin from *Commiphora myrrha*, has been a constituent of incense, perfume, and such, in ceremonial religious life, as well as an article employed by the common people from the days of the most remote antiquity. It was one of the rare and precious gum-resins in the days of the Bible, being mentioned in connection with such substances as frankincense and olibanum. That it was highly valued in the days of Solomon is evident from the fact that it is mentioned conspicuously in connection with the gifts brought by the Queen of Sheba to that monarch. It is yet obtained from Arabia, the present writer finding it in the bazaars of Aden (and adjacent Arab bazaars), a city that had an existence as a port of export for Oriental products in very early days. Theophrastus (633), Pliny (514), and other early writers mention this drug, which from all times has been valued in domestic medicine for its aromatic qualities, and as a constituent of incense in religious ceremonies. In Herodotus (Macaulay, Book II, p. 153) it is named as one of the substances used by the Egyptians in embalming the dead.

"First with a crooked iron they draw out the brains through the nostrils, extracting it partly thus and partly by pouring in drugs; and after this with a sharp stone of Ethiopia they make a cut along the side and take out the whole contents of the belly, and when they have cleared out the cavity and cleansed it with palm-wine they cleanse it again with spices pounded up; then they fill the belly with pure myrrh pounded up and with cassia and other spices except frankincense, and sew it together again."