Medicinal plant names : their origin and meaning / by F. Ransom, late examiner to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

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MEDICINAL PLANT NAMES

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THE origin of the names of plants is a subject of much interest, but its investigation is attended with some difficulty. In the case of those derived from the classical names the meaning is often purely conjectural, as the same word may have been applied to plants of very different characters. Even with names of later date it is often difficult to trace the reasons which influenced the authors who are responsible for them.

It is hoped that the following compilation, besides being of some interest to pharmacists generally, may be of use to the pharmaceutical student in assisting to impress upon his memory names which may hitherto have been devoid of any meaning. On this account translations are given of even the commonest specific names, as an experience of ten years on the Board of Examiners has indicated that the classical knowledge of the average pharmaceutical candidate does not embrace a very intimate acquaintance with Latin adjectives.

My thanks are due to Mr. G. C. Druce, M.A., and Mr. E. M. Holmes, F.L.S., for their kind assistance in elucidating some points of difficulty.

RANUNCULACEÆ.

Hydrastis.—It has been suggested that the name is derived from the Greek ὕδωρ (hudor), water, and δράω (drao), to accomplish, owing to the reputed action of *H. canadensis*, the only species, on the mucous membranes. It is more probable that it refers simply

to the fact that the plant grows in moist situations. *H. canadensis*, Linn. The plant is a native of Canada and other parts of North America. The names yellow root and golden seal indicate the characteristic colour of the rhizome and rootlets.

Helleborus.—The Greek ἑλλέβορος (helleboros) referred to species of this genus. The derivation is doubtful, but it has been suggested to be from the Greek ἑλεῖν (helein), the aorist infinitive of αἱρέω (haireo), to seize or kill, and βορά (bora), food; owing to the poisonous properties possessed by plants of this genus. *H. niger*, Linn. Latin, black, indicating the brownish-black colour of the rhizomes and rootlets. When cultivated in gardens it is usually known as the "Christmas rose," owing to its time of flowering.

Delphinium.—From the Greek δελφίν (delphin) a dolphin, to the mythical illustrations of which the unexpanded flowers bear some resemblance. *D. staphisagria*, Linn. The Greek name for the plant from σταφίς (staphis), the grape, ἄγριος (agrios), living in the fields. The English, stavesacre, is a corruption of the classical name.

Aconitum.—The Greek ἀκόνιτον (akoniton) referred to several species of this genus. It is supposed to be derived from Acone, a town of Bithynia, in the neighbourhood of which the aconite is abundant. Many other suggestions have, however, been made as to the origin of the word. *A. napellus*, Linn. Diminutive of Latin *napus*, a turnip, from the somewhat tapering shape of the roots. The English name, monkshood, is in allusion to the hooded calyx, the dark blue sepals of which form the most conspicuous part of the flower.—*A. ferox*, Wallich (Nepal or Indian aconite). Latin, *ferox*, fierce, probably indicating its dangerous poisonous properties. The synonym, *A. virosum*, Don., signifies poisonous. It is found in Nepal and the Northern States of India.—*A. fischeri*, Reich. (Japanese aconite). From Professor Fischer, a celebrated German botanist.—*A. heterophyllum*, Wallich. Greek, ἕτερος (heteros), different; φύλλον, a leaf. The leaves vary much in shape, the lower have long petioles and are reniform, while the upper are shortly stalked or sessile and narrowly ovate.

Cimicifuga.—Latin, *cimex*, a bug; *fugare*, to drive away. The name is derived from the properties possessed by certain species, especially *C. fœtida*, which on account of its powerful odour is used in Siberia for this purpose. *C. racemosa*, Elliott. The

THE CHILTERNS,
HITCHIN.

July 15th 1919

Dear Dr Fox

I have read your
book on Dr Todhunter with
great interest. It must
have involved a great amount
of research but I think
the result must have fully
repaid the trouble & I
congratulate you on having

produced a volume which

is so widely appreciated.

You have probably seen

the reviews in the "Spectator"

& the "Times Literary Supplement"

There are one or two small

points which may need

revision if a second edition

is published. –

Page 36 You state ~~that~~ regarding Catechu

(Terra Japonica) that the West

Indian Islands "are now the chief

source of the drug. I believe
that practically all is still
obtained from the East Indies
including the Malay Peninsula

...e 42. With regard to Cannab...
...e say that ~~owing to~~ the
uncertainty of the virtues of this
...ent "have led in the present
...y to its almost entire neglect",
...y firm have prepared over
... galls. Since Cannabis this
...omer besides some quantity
... Extract. Cannabis. There is evidently
...ill considerable demand although
... has been omitted from the
...itish Pharmacopoeia.

...e 174 Hydrastis Canadensis is

occasionally called "Indian Turmeric"
in America, but "Turmeric", as
known in this country, is the
product of Curcuma longa,
& comes from India, China &
Java.

Please excuse my calling attention
to these small matters in so
excellent a work.

I am enclosing a copy of a
reprint of some articles on
Medicinal Plant-Gums which
were published in the "Pharmaceutical Journal" some years
ago, which perhaps may be
of interest to you.

With kind regards

I am

Yours sincerely

F. Ramon

i florescence of this species consists of a long erect raceme. Synonym, *Actæa racemosa*, from the Greek ἀκτέα (aktea), an elder tree, from a resemblance of the leaves to those of this plant. Its popular name, black snake root, would appear to indicate that it is efficacious as a remedy for snake poison, but such is not the case; possibly it refers to the twisted shape of the rhizome.

Anemone.—Greek, ἄνεμος (anemos), the wind. It is supposed that the flowers require the assistance of the wind to expand. The plants often grow in exposed positions, and the petals are very liable to be scattered by the wind. Sir Wm. Jones poetically alludes to this characteristic :—

> " Youth, like a thin anemone, displays
> His silken leaf, and in a morn decays."

A. pulsatilla, Linn. Latin, *pulso*, to beat. This also refers to the susceptibility of the plant to the wind. Gerarde called it the Pasque or Easter flower, on account of its time of flowering.—*A. pratensis*, Linn. Latin, *pratum*, a meadow. The plant thrives in grass meadows.

MAGNOLIACEÆ.

Illicium. — Latin *illicio*, to allure, owing to its attractive perfume. *I. anisatum*, Linn. The odour of the fruit resembles that of anise (see *Pimpinella anisum*).—*I. verum*, Hooker. Latin, true. This is now believed to be the source of the official star anise.—*I. religiosum*, Siebold. Latin, *religiosus*, holy. This is the Japanese anise. In Japan it is held sacred, wreaths and branches are laid upon the tombs by friends of the deceased, and the priests burn the bark as an incense.

MENISPERMACEÆ.

Chondrodendron.—Greek, χόνδρος (chondros), a grain, and δένδρον (dendron), a tree. The tree receives its name from the rough or granular protuberances on the bark. This genus is often spelt Chondodendron, but from its derivation it would appear that the "r" was omitted by accident. *C. tomentosum*, Ruiz and Pavon. Latin, *tomentum*, down. The lower surface of the leaves is densely covered with downy hairs. The common name, *Pareira brava*, is derived from the Portuguese, *Parreira*, a vine that grows against a wall, and *brava*, wild. This indicates the climbing habits of the shrub.

Jateorhiza.—Greek, ἰατήρ (iater), a physician, and ῥίζα (rhiza), a root, owing to the valuable medicinal properties of the root of

the chief species. *J. calumba*, Miers, is derived from *Kalumb*, the native African name for the root.

Anamirta.—Taken from an Indian term the meaning of which is uncertain. *A. paniculata*, Colebr. The inflorescence of the plant is panicled. The name of the fruit, *Cocculus*, is the diminutive of the Latin *coccum*, the berry of the scarlet oak. It is a native of India, as implied by the common name *Cocculus indicus*.

BERBERIDACEÆ.

Berberis.—From *Berberys*, the name for the plant in Arabia. The word also signifies a shell, and it is supposed by some writers to owe its name from its leaves being somewhat hollowed like a shell. *B. vulgaris*, Linn. Latin, common. The common Barberry.

Podophyllum.—Greek, πούς (pous), a foot, and Φύλλον (phyllon), a leaf. The divided leaf, supported by the firm erect petiole, is supposed to resemble the foot of a bird. *P. peltatum*, Linn. Latin, *pelta*, a shield. This refers to the peltate leaf, the petiole being attached to the blade at about the centre.

PAPAVERACEÆ.

Papaver.—This is the old Latin name; its etymology is uncertain. *P. somniferum*, Linn. Latin, *somnus*, sleep; *fero*, to bring, owing to its soporific properties.—*P. rhœas*, Linn. This is the classical name for the plant.

Sanguinaria.—Latin, *sanguis*, blood. The rhizome contains much juice of a blood-red colour.—*S. canadensis*, Linn.—The plant is a native of Canada and other parts of North America.

Chelidonium.—Greek, χελιδών (chelidon), a swallow. According to Gerarde, swallows were supposed to use it to restore sight. Other authorities say that the plant blossoms on the arrival of the swallow, and withers at its departure. *C. majus*, Linn. Latin, larger, distinguishing it from the lesser celandine, *Ranunculus ficaria*, Linn.

CRUCIFERÆ.

Cochlearia.—Latin, *cochlear*, a spoon, owing to the concave form of the radical leaves, especially those of *C. officinalis*. *C. armoracia*, Linn. A classical name, but doubtfully referred to this plant.

Brassica.—The Latin name for the cabbage derived from the Celtic, *Bresic*, having the same meaning. *B. nigra*, Koch. Latin, *nigra*, black, referring to the dark reddish-brown colour of the

seeds. The English word, mustard, is derived from the Italian, *mostarda*, owing to its having a little must (Latin, *mustum*, unfermented grape juice) mixed with it in preparing the condiment.—*B. alba*, Koch. Latin, *alba*, white, from the light colour of the seeds.

CANELLACEÆ.

Canella.—Derived from the Spanish *cañela*, cinnamon, the *C. alba* being called wild cinnamon. *Canela* is a diminutive of Latin *canna*, a reed, from the quilled bark of the cinnamon. *C. alba*, Murray. Latin, white. The young branches have a silver-grey bark, the canella bark of commerce.

POLYGALACEÆ.

Polygala.—Greek, πολύς (polus), much, γάλα (gala), milk. Several species had the reputation of promoting the secretion of milk. Hence the English name milkwort. *P. senega*, Linn. From the Seneca tribe of North American Indians, who were accustomed to use the plant as a remedy for snake bites. Hence the common name rattlesnake root.

Krameria.—The genus receives its name from Dr. Kramer, a distinguished Austrian botanist. *K. triandra*, Ruiz and Pavon. Greek τρεῖς (treis), three, ανήρ (aner), a man, hence stamen. The flower is peculiar in having only three stamens.—*K. ixina*, Linn. From *Ixine*, the native name of the plant in Venezuela, where it was first discovered.—*K. argentea*, Mart. This probably refers to the silvery appearance of the leaves.

GUTTIFERÆ.

Garcinia.—Named after Laurence Garcin, M.D., a French traveller and botanist. *G. hanburii*, Hook. Sir Joseph Hooker considers this as a distinct species from *G. morella*, Desrousseaux, and has named it after the late Daniel Hanbury, joint author of 'Pharmacographia.' The name of gamboge, the product of this tree, is derived from Camboja in Siam (formerly the capital of the kingdom of Cambodia) whence the drug is obtained.

TERNSTRŒMIACEÆ.

Camellia.—Named after George Joseph Kamel, a Moravian Jesuit and distinguished botanist who travelled in Asia and wrote a history of the plants of Luzon. *C. thea*, Link. The latinised form of the Chinese *Téh*, tea.

MALVACEÆ.

Althæa.—Greek, ἄλθομαι (althomai), to heal. *A. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, *officina*, a workshop or manufactory, hence officinalis implies that which is of practical use for some purpose. It is called marshmallow, on account of growing in damp situations, mallow being derived from Greek μᾰλᾰκος (malakos), soft, either on account of its emollient and demulcent properties, or more probably from the downy surface of the leaves.

Gossypium.—Derived from *goz*, an Arabic word meaning a soft substance; hence cotton. *G. barbadense*, Linn. This species is probably a native of the West Indies, and derives its name from the island of Barbados.

STERCULIACEÆ.

Theobroma.—Greek, θεός (theos), a god, and βρῶμα (broma), food. Cocoa is presumed to be fit for a god's repast. *T. cacao*, Linn. Mexican, *cacauall*, Cacao. The term cocoa belongs originally to the cocoanut palm (*Cocos nucifera*).

LINACEÆ.

Linum.—Latin, *linum*, flax, derived originally from the Celtic, *llin*, a thread. *L. usitatissimum*, Linn. Latin, most used, hence commonest. One of the most useful plants to man, affording flax, linseed meal and oil, etc.

Erythroxylum.—Greek ἐρυθρός (erythros), red, and ξύλον (xylon), wood. Some species of this genus possess a reddish coloured wood. *E. coca*, Lamarck. Cuca, the Peruvian name, signifies *the* tree, and indicates the importance which has long been attached to this plant. Coca is the Spanish name.

ZYGOPHYLLACEÆ.

Guaiacum.—Guayacan or Guaiac is the native South American name of the plant. *G. officinale*, Linn. Latin, officinal. One source of the resin.—*G. sanctum*, Linn. Latin, holy, indicating the estimation in which guaiacum has been held on account of its healing properties. *Lignum vitæ*, the wood of life, indicates the hardness and durability of the dark-coloured heart-wood.

RUTACEÆ.

Ruta.—This is the classical name. It is probably derived from Latin, *ruo*, to rush down, in consequence of the stimulant property of the following species:—*R. graveolens*, Linn. Latin, *graveolens*, strong-smelling. The whole plant has a heavy aromatic odour.

Barosma vel **Baryosma.**—Greek, βαρύς (*barus*), heavy, and

ὀσμή (*osme*), an odour. The plants of this genus have a strong and characteristic aroma. *B. betulina*, Bartling. From Latin, *betula*, a birch, owing to the resemblance of the leaves in shape to those of the birch.—*B. crenulata*, Hook. The leaf has a finely serrate or crenate-serrate margin.—*B. serratifolia*, Willd. The margin of the leaf is closely serrate. *Diosma*, the genus to which, according to some authorities, the above species belong, indicates that the odour is divine. The term Buchu or Buku is the native name for the shrub in South Africa.

Cusparia.—The vernacular name for the following species in New Granada. *C. febrifuga*, DC. Latin, antifebrile. It has been found of use in typhoid fever, but gained its reputation in cases of dysentery. Angostura, another name for the bark, is derived from the town of that name in Venezuela.

Pilocarpus.—Presumbly from Greek πῖλος (pilos), a hat, and καρπός (karpos) fruit. The fruit consists of five carpels, each of which is rounded at the back and possesses some slight resemblance in shape to a hat. *P. jaborandi*, Holmes. Jaborandi is a Brazilian word applied to various pungent sudorific plants. It is frequently termed *Pernambuco jaborandi*, as it grows abundantly in this province of Brazil.

Citrus.—This was the Latin name for the citron (*C. medica*). It has been said to have its derivation from the town of Citron, in Judæa. *C. aurantium*, Risso. Probably from Latin *aurum* (gold), from the colour of the fruit. The mediæval name *Arantium*, Italian *Arancia*, and Spanish *Naranja* are evidently derived from the Arabic *Nâranj*, an orange. In French the initial *n* was early lost, and the *a* being converted into *o*, the word orange was coined, and thus derived from the original Arabic, but it is also doubtless associated with the French *or*, gold, on account of the golden-coloured fruit.—The variety *Bigaradia*, Hook., is the bitter or Seville orange, the origin of the name is uncertain.—*C. limetta*, Risso. The lime is derived from the Persian *Limu*, the fruit having been introduced into Europe from Central Asia.—*C. bergamia*, Risso, is only a variety of the above. It yields the bergamot, similar in shape to the Bergamot pear, which takes its name from Bergamo, a town in North Italy.—*C. medica*, Linn., var. β *Limonum*, Hook. The name is probably derived from the Arabic, *Laymun*, a lemon. *Medica* is the Latin for Medean or Assyrian, which appears to indicate that the lemon was originally obtained from the East. The tree is a native of Northern India.

Ægle.—The name of one of the Hesperides, the daughters of Hesperus, whose duty it was to guard an orchard bearing golden apples. Bael fruit resembles an apple in shape and when dried is golden red in colour. *Æ. marmelos*, Correa. Portuguese, *marmelo*, a quince. In the middle ages the bael fruit was called *Marmelos de Benguala* (Bengal quince). Bael is the Indian name for the tree.

SIMARUBACEÆ.

Simaruba.—Simarouba is the Caribbean name for the following species and the genus appears to have been originally spelt thus, *S. amara*, Aublet. Latin, bitter. The bark of the root, the part used in medicine, has a very bitter taste.

Picræna.—Greek, πῖκρός (pikros), bitter. The bitterness of the wood is characteristic. *P. excelsa*, Lindley. Latin, high. The tree is about 60 feet in height. Quassia is now obtained from this plant. It was originally derived from *Quassia amara*, Linn., a plant of the same genus, and possessing a similarly bitter taste, which is now distinguished as Surinam quassia, while the official is known as Jamaica quassia. It is to the *Q. amara* that the reputation of the drug is due, but the supply of the Jamaica variety being more available, the latter is now exclusively official, and thus what was formerly a substitution has become the genuine drug. The name quassia is derived from Quassy, a negro who made known the properties of the wood.

BURSERACEÆ.

Boswellia.—The genus was named after Dr. John Boswell, of Edinburgh. *B. Carterii*, Birdwood. Assistant-Surgeon H. J. Carter, of the Indian Army, first described this plant in 1847. It is one of the species yielding olibanum, the true frankincense. Olibanum is probably derived from Latin *oleum*, oil, and *libamen* a libation, indicating its use as incense.—*B. Bhau-Dajiana*, Birdwood. This species is closely allied to the above and is a source of olibanum. It is named after Dr. Bhau-Daji, a distinguished physician of Bombay.

Balsamodendron, Greek, βαλσάμον (balsamon), balsam, δένδρον, (dendron), a tree. Various aromatic resins are derived from this genus. *B. opobalsamum*, Kunth. Greek, ὀπος (opos), juice, βαλσάμον (balsamon), balsam. This plant is one source of the Balm of Gilead.—*B. myrrha*, Nees. *Myrrha* is the Latin and Greek name for the oleo-gum-resin obtained from this plant. The Arabic *murr* is probably derived from *marra*, to be bitter.

Canarium.—From Canari, the Malay name for the plant. *C. commune*, Linn. Latin, common. The oleo-resin, *Manila elemi*, is supposed to be derived from this species, and as its name implies, is exported from Manila, the capital of the Philippine Islands.

RHAMNACEÆ.

Rhamnus.—Greek, ῥάμνος (rhamnos), a prickly shrub, probably applied to *Paliurus australis*, Gärt., a plant of this natural order. *R. catharticus*, Linn. Latin, cathartic, referring to the purging property of the juice of the fruit.—*R. frangula*. *Frangula* was the mediæval name for the plant, and is probably derived from Latin, *frango*, to break, indicating the brittle nature of its wood. —*R. purshianus*, DC.—Named after Pursh, an American botanist.

VITACEÆ.

Vitis.—Latin, *vitis*, a vine. *V. vinifera*, Linn. Latin, *vinum*, wine; *fero*, to produce. The common grape vine.

SAPINDACEÆ.

Paullinia.—Named by Linnæus either in honour of Simon Paulli, a Danish botanist of the seventeenth century, or more probably after C. F. Paullini, a German medico-botanist, who died in 1712. *P. sorbilis*, Martius. Latin, *sorbeo*, to drink. Guarana, which is prepared from the seeds of this plant, is used for the preparation of a beverage by certain of the aboriginal inhabitants of Brazil. Guarana takes its name from the Guarinis, a tribe of these natives. It is also known as Guarana sticks or bread and as Brazilian cocoa.

ANACARDIACEÆ.

Pistacia.—Greek πιστάκια (pistakia), the fruit of *P. vera* (pistachio nuts). *P. lentiscus*, Linn. *Lentiscus*, the classical name for the mastich tree, from Latin, *lentesco*, to be sticky, referring to the sticky resinous exudation from the bark. Mastich is derived from Greek μάσταξ (mastax) that which is chewed. It is still used largely in the East as a masticatory.—*P. terebinthus*, Linn. Greek τερέβινθος (terebinthos), turpentine. The oleo-resin secreted in the bark, now known as Chian turpentine, was the original terebinth of the ancients.

LEGUMINOSÆ.

Cytisus, Greek, κύτῐσος (kytisos), was the classical name for some species of this order. It is supposed by some authorities to be derived from Cythnos, an island on the Ægean Sea, in which these plants are well represented. *C. scoparius*, Link. Latin, *scopæ*, thin branches, hence a broom made of twigs.

Trigonella.—Diminutive of Latin, *trigon*, a triangle. The flowers of some species of this genus are triangular in shape. *T. fœnum-græcum*, Linn. Latin, *fœnum*, hay; *græcum*, Greek. The plant was cultivated in classical times as fodder for oxen.

Indigofera.—Indigo, a blue dye, and Latin, *fero*, to bear. Indigo, a mediæval word, is derived from Latin *Indicum*, India being the geographical source of the dye. *I. tinctoria*, Linn Latin, *tingo*, to colour, dye.

Astragalus.—Greek, ἀστράγἄλος (astragalos), a name applied by the Greeks to some unknown species of the Leguminosæ. The word indicates one of the vertebræ of the neck, and it has been supposed that certain leguminous seeds bear some resemblance to these bones, and hence suggested the name. *A. gummifer*, Labill. Latin, *gummi*, gum, and *fero*, to bear. The source of tragacanth.

Glycyrrhiza.—Greek, γλυκυῤῥίζα (glykyrrhiza), is the classical name for the plant, derived from γλυκύς (glykys), sweet, and ῥίζα (rhiza), a root. *G. glabra*, Linn. Latin, smooth. The leaves of this species are smooth, except when young.

Abrus.—From Greek, ἁβρός (abros), delicate, soft, indicating the extreme delicacy of the leaves. *A. precatorius*, Linn. Latin, *precator*, one who prays. The brilliant scarlet and black seeds are used in the West Indies as beads for rosaries, and in the East for similar purposes by the Buddhists. The plant is known as Indian liquorice, from being used as a substitute for the latter.

Mucuna.—The Brazilian name for a species of this genus. *M. pruriens*, DC. Latin, *prurio*, to itch. The hairs of the pod produce intense irritation.

Physostigma.—Greek, φῡσάω (physao), to inflate. The only species of this genus has a peculiar hooked appendage at the apex of the stigma. From the erroneous impression that this structure was hollow and inflated the plant received its name. *P. venenosum*, Balf. Latin, *veneno*, to poison. This refers to the highly poisonous character of the seeds. They are known as Calabar beans from the Calabar coast of West Africa, whence they are exported.

Pterocarpus.—Greek, πτερόν (pteron), a wing, and καρπός (karpos), a fruit. The winged legumes are characteristic of this genus *P. Marsupium*, Roxburgh. Latin, *marsupium*, a pouch. The fruit of this species has the form of a pouch.—*P. santalinus*, Linn. This refers to its common name of red sandalwood. Sandul

is the Persian for yellow sandal wood, with which, however, it has no connection.

Myroxylon.—Greek, μύρον (muron), a perfume or balsam; ξύλον (xylon), wood. The stems contain balsamic resins. *M. toluifera*, H. B. K. Latin, *fero*, to bear. The balsam is said to have been first obtained from Tolu, a seaport town in New Granada. —*M. pereiræ*, Klotzsch. This plant was named after the eminent professor, Dr. Jonathan Pereira, F.R.S., author of 'Elements of Materia Medica' and other well-known works.

Hæmatoxylon.—Greek, αἷμα (haima), blood; ξύλον (xylon), wood. The heartwood is of a deep red colour. *H. campechianum*, Linn. Campeachy, a State in the South of Mexico, includes a portion of the Yucatan Peninsula, where logwood is extensively collected. Campeachy is also the name of a seaport in the State, whence much of the wood was formerly exported, and it is probably from the town that the name is derived.

Cassia.—The Greek, κασία (kasia), appears to have been applied originally to an aromatic bark allied to cinnamon. In its Latinised form, *cassia*, it was afterwards used to designate the pods of *Cassia fistula*. *C. fistula*, Linn. Latin, *fistula*, a hollow reed or pipe, indicating the tubular form of the fruit.—*C. acutifolia*, Delile. The apex of the leaflet is acute, but the characteristic is not peculiar to this species, which is the chief source of Alexandrian senna. *Sena* is the Arabic name for the drug. Alexandrian senna is so-called from the port from which it is exported. It is produced in the regions of the Upper Nile.—*C. obovata*, Colladon. The leaflets of this species are oblong-obovate in shape. Although the first kind of senna known in Europe, it is now seldom seen.—*C. angustifolia*, Vahl. Latin, *angustus*, narrow. The leaflets are narrower than those of some other species.

Tamarindus.—This is derived from the Arabic *tamr*, date; and *hindi*, Indian. It is exported from India. *T. indica*, Linn. The specific name of this, the only species, merely reiterates the fact that the fruit is obtained from India. It is, however, common throughout tropical Africa, which is considered to be its original home. It has also been introduced into the West Indies, Central America, etc., where much of the fruit is now produced.

Copaifera.—*Copaiba*, the Brazilian name for the oleo-resin, and Latin *fero*, to bear. *C. lansdorffii*, Desf. This plant was named

by Desfontaines after M. Lansdorff, the Russian Consul-General at Rio Janeiro, to whom he was indebted for specimens.

Acacia.—Greek, ἀκή (ake), a point or thorn. The Greek word ἀκακία (akakia) was employed by Dioscorides to designate some thorny shrub probably belonging to this order of plants, but the species is not known. When the genus *Mimosa* was sub-divided the name Acacia was appropriated for these plants. *A. senegal*, Willd. Senegal, a French colony in western tropical Africa, where the gum has long been collected. The best gum-arabic is probably obtained from this and other species which grow in more eastern parts of the continent, especially in Kordofan, a province of the Egyptian Soudan. *Acacia verek* is a synonym of *A. senegal*, Verek being the name which is given to the gum by the negroes. —*A. catechu*, Willd. Catechu is a native name for the extract obtained from the plant and is probably derived from the Indian words, *katti*, a tree and *shu*, juice. Cutch and Kashu are other native names for the extract, and probably have the same or similar origin.

ROSACEÆ.

Prunus.—Latin, *prunus*, a plum tree. *P. domestica*, Linn. The common plum tree was cultivated and used for domestic purposes in ancient times. The medicinal prune is obtained from the cultivated variety, *Juliana*, and is known in France as Prune de St. Julien.—*P. serotina*, Ehrhart. Latin, late in the season. The tree flowers and fruits later in the season than many other species of *Prunus*.—*P. lauro-cerasus*, Linn. Latin, *laurus*, a laurel, *cerasus*, a cherry. The foliage somewhat resembles that of the true laurel, while the fruit is similar in appearance to the cherry. —*P. Amygdalus*, Stokes. Latin, *amygdalum*, Greek, ἀμυγδάλη (amygdale), an almond. Two varieties are official in the Pharmacopœia (1) *dulcis*, the sweet almond, (2) *amara*, the bitter almond, indicating the respective tastes of the fruits.

Potentilla.—Latin, *potens*, powerful, indicating the powerful properties attributed to some species. *P. tormentilla*, Stokes. Latin, *tormina*, the colic. This plant was formerly used extensively as an astringent for the relief of diarrhœa and dysentery.

Brayera.—Brayer was a French physician who lived in Constantinople, and published a description of kousso in 1823. *B. anthelmintica*, Kunth. Kousso, the drug obtained from this plant, is well known as a vermifuge.

Rosa.—Latin, *rosa* ; Greek, ῥόδον (rhodon), the classical name of the rose, derived from the Armorican *rhos*, red (Celtic, *rhod*). *R. canina*, Linn. Latin, *canis*, a dog. From very early times the equivalent of dog-rose has been applied to a species of common wild rose. The Greek term κυνόσβατος (kunosbatos), literally the thorn of the dog, was used by Dioscorides and Theophrastus.—*R. gallica*, Linn. Gallic or French rose. It has for centuries been cultivated in France. A variety called the "Provins rose" has long been grown at Provins, a small town, 59 miles south-east of Paris, where Thibaut VI., Count of Champagne, is said to have introduced it from the East on his return from the Crusades.—*R. centifolia*, Linn. Latin, *centum*, a hundred ; *folium*, a leaf, indicating the numerous petals of this, the cabbage rose. It is largely cultivated in the flower farms of the south-east of France for the distillation of rose water, and is hence called the Provence rose.—*R. damascena*, Miller. The Damascus or damask rose, which is largely cultivated in the East, is often regarded as merely a cultivated variety of *R. centifolia*. From this flower is distilled otto or attar of roses, derived from *atr*, Arabic, or *utr*, Hindu, a perfume.

Pyrus.—Latin, *pirus*, a pear tree. *P. cydonia*, Linn. Greek, κυδώνια (Cydonia), a town of Crete, in the neighbourhood of which the quince was said by Pliny to be indigenous.

Quillaya.—The native name for the following tree in Chili. *Q. saponaria*, Molina. Latin, *sapo*, soap. With water the bark produces a lather similar to that of soap.

HAMAMELIDEÆ.

Hamamelis.—Greek, ἅμα (hama), with, μῆλον (melon), a fruit. The fruit requires about twelve months to ripen, and thus is seen upon the shrub with the flower of the following year. *H. virginiana*, Linn. Virginia, one of the United States, of which it is a native.

Liquidambar.—Latin, liquid amber. The name was originally applied to the semi-fluid resin obtained from an American species *L. styraciflua.*—*L. orientalis*, Miller. Latin, eastern. The plant is a native of Asia Minor. Styrax (Greek, στύραξ) was the classical name for the balsam obtained from this tree.

MYRTACEÆ.

Melaleuca.—Greek, μέλας (melas), black, λευκός (leukos) white. In some species the stem is black in colour, while the branches are white. *M. leucadendron*, Linn. Greek, λευκός

(leukos), white, δένδρον (dendron), a tree, from the yellowish-grey bark or white flowers. Cajuput, the name given to the oil distilled from the leaves, is derived from the Malay words, *kayu*, a tree; and *putih*, white. This may also refer to the whitish colour of the branches.

Eucalyptus.—Greek, εὖ (eu), well; καλίπτω (kalypto), to cover. The flower-bud during development is curiously covered by the limb of the calyx which falls off as a lid when the flower expands. *E. globulus*, Labill. Latin, a little ball. This may refer to the somewhat globular form both of the bud and the fruit. *E. amygdalina*, Labill. Latin, *amygdalus*, an almond, referring to the shape of the leaves.— *E. rostrata*, Schletchendal. Latin, *hooked*. The lid covering the bud is beaked.

Pimenta.—*Pimento* is the Spanish name for the tree. *P. officinalis*, Lindley. Latin, *officina*, a workshop; hence *officinalis*, used in a workshop or for manufacturing purposes.

Eugenia.—This genus was named in honour of Prince Eugene of Savoy, who, in addition to being a distinguished general, was a great patron of botany. *E. caryophyllata*, Thunberg.—Greek, καρυόφυλλον (karyopyllon), a spice, probably the clove. It is composed of the two Greek words, κάρυον (karyon), a nut, and φύλλον (phyllon), a leaf, of which the clove may have been supposed to be a combination.

LYTHRARIEÆ.

Punica.—The Latin name for the tree was *Malus punica*; the Carthaginian (punic), apple. It was introduced at an early period into Northern Africa. *P. granatum*, Linn. *Granatum* was also a Latin name for the pomegranate. It probably referred to the numerous seeds (*grana*) which are found in the fruit.

CUCURBITACEÆ.

Citrullus.—Diminutive of Latin *citrus*, the citron tree. The fruit of the colocynth resembles that of the citron in form. *C. colocynthis*, Schrader. The classical name for the plant. Greek, κολοκύνθη (kolokynthe), a pumpkin or gourd.

Ecballium.—Greek, ἐκβάλλω (ekballo), to cast out. This refers to the characteristic action of the fruit, which dehisces with violence on ripening, causing the seed to be projected to a considerable distance. *E. elaterium*, A. Rich. Greek, ἐλατήριος (elaterios), driving away, indicating the purgative action of the drug.

Bryonia.—Greek, *βρύω* (bryo), to cause to shoot or burst forth. The name indicates the rapid growth of the shoots, as may be seen in the common bryony of our hedges. *B. dioica*, Linn. Latin, diœcious. This is derived from the Greek *δίς* (dis), double, and *οἶκος* (oikos), dwelling ; diœcious plants bearing their pistillate and staminate flowers on separate plants.

UMBELLIFERÆ.

Conium.—Greek, *κώνειον* (koneion), hemlock ; the juice of which was used by Greeks to poison their criminals. The origin of the word is uncertain. *C. maculatum*, Linn. Latin, spotted. A characteristic of the hemlock is the spotted stem.

Carum.—The Greek, *κάρος* (káros) of Dioscorides has been supposed to be a Carum, but recent research has thrown doubt upon this name. It is connected with the Arabic *karawya* (caraway fruit), the etymology of which is not known. *C. copticum*, Benth. and Hook. The plant is a native of Egypt, the land of the Copts —*C. carui*, Linn. Arabic, *karawya*, the caraway fruit.

Pimpinella.—It is said to be derived from *bipinnula*, twice pinnate, referring to the bipinnate leaves. *P. anisum*, Linn.—*Anisum* is the classical name for the plant, the origin of the word is not known.

Fœniculum.—The old Latin name for fennel, from *fœnum*, hay. The fragrant odour was supposed to resemble that of hay. *F. capillaceum*, Gilib. Latin, *capillus*, the hair. The fine thread-like divisions of the leaf appear to have suggested hair.

Ferula.—Latin, giant-fennel, probably applied to several species of this genus. It is supposed to be derived from *ferio*, to strike, the dried stems of these plants being used as canes for the castigation of slaves and schoolboys. *F. narthex*, Boiss. Greek, *νάρθεξ* (narthex), a large umbelliferous plant, probably identical with the Latin *ferula*. In the hollow stalk Prometheus is said to have conveyed the spark of fire from heaven to earth. Asafetida is obtained from this and the following species. The etymology and orthography of the word asafetida have been the subject of much discussion. It is probably a combination of the Arabic *asa*, which signifies healing, and the Latin *fetida*, stinking. —*F. scorodosma*, Benth. and Hook. Greek, *σκόροδον* (scorodon), garlic, and *ὀσμή*, a smell. The odour of the volatile oil of asafetida bears some resemblance to that of garlic.—*F. fetida* is a synonym for this species.—*F. galbaniflua*, Boiss and Buhse. Latin, *galba-*

num, the gum-resin obtained from this plant; *fluo*, to flow. *F. sumbul*, Hook. fil. The Arabic word *sumbul* is applied to several roots.

Dorema.—Greek, δώρημα (dorema), a gift, indicating the high estimation in which the gum-resinous exudation was held. *D. ammoniacum*, Don.—The name was applied by the classical writers to the gum-resin of some other plant, probably *Ferula tingitana*, Linn., which is indigenous to North Africa. The name is derived from the temple of Jupiter Ammon, in the neighbourhood of which it was probably found.

Peucedanum.—Greek, πευκέδανος (peukedanos), a term originally applied to some umbelliferous plant. *P. graveolens*, Hiern. Latin, heavy-smelling, referring to the strong aroma of the volatile oil.

Coriandrum.—Greek, κορίαννον (koriannon), the fruit or plant of *C. sativum*. It is derived from κόρις (koris), a bug, on account of the offensive odour of the leaves and unripe fruits. This is quite distinct from the aromatic odour of the oil contained in the ripe fruit. *C. sativum*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. The elder Cato refers to the cultivation of coriander in the third century B C.

Cuminum.—Arabic, *quamoun*, the fruit of the *C. cyminum*. —*C. cyminum*, Linn. The specific name is simply an altered form of the generic.

CORNACEÆ.

Cornus.—Latin, *cornus*, the dog-wood tree, from *cornu*, horn, on account of the hardness of the wood. *C. florida*, Linn. Latin, flowery. The flowers, although inconspicuous individually, are crowded together and surrounded by an involucre of large petaloid bracts.

CAPRIFOLIACEÆ.

Sambucus.—Latin, the elder tree. It is supposed to be derived from *Sambuca*, a word applied to various musical instruments, both wind and stringed. Elder wood may have been used in making the former, the soft pith when removed leaving a tube. *S. nigra*, Linn. Latin, black. The fruit when ripe is of a deep purplish-black colour.

Viburnum.—The old Latin name used by Virgil and others for some species of this genus. It is supposed to be derived from *vieo*, to bend, on account of the pliability of the branches. *V. pruni-*

folium, Linn. Latin, *Prunus*, a plum tree; *folium*, a leaf. The leaves resemble those of some species of *Prunus*.

RUBIACEÆ.

Uncaria.—Latin, *uncus*, a hook. These climbing plants are provided with articulated peduncles, which taper from a broad base. The entire inflorescence when falling breaks off at the articulation about half-way up the peduncle, the remaining portion of which becomes hardened and elongates into a strong hook, by means of which the plant is supported. *U. gambier*, Roxburgh. Gambier is the Malay name for the astringent extract, known officially as catechu, which is prepared from this plant.

Cinchona.—In 1638 the Countess Ana de Osorio, wife of the fourth Count of Chinchon, Spanish Viceroy of Peru, was cured of intermittent fever by the use of the powdered bark. After her recovery she caused large quantities of the bark to be collected, and the remedy was introduced into Spain under the name of Polvo de la Condesa (the Countess' powder). The genus was named *cinchona*, by Linnæus, in commemoration of the Countess; the correct spelling would have been *chinchona*. Chinchon is a small town in Spain, from which the Count derived his title. *C. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, *officinal*. This was at one time the chief source of the bark, and a variety of this species, the *quinquina*, doubtless afforded the powder which cured the Countess (see above). Quinine is derived from the Indian word *quina*, bark.—*C. calisaya*, Weddell. Calisaya is a native term for the bark in Peru and Bolivia.—*C. ledgeriana*. This is usually regarded as a variety of *C. calisaya*. In 1865, Charles Ledger, an English traveller, collected the seed in Bolivia, and brought it to this country. It was eventually sold to the Dutch Government, and plants raised from it in Java have proved a great success, yielding a very large percentage of quinine. — *C. succirubra*, Pavon. Latin, *succus*, juice; *rubra*, red. The sap, when it exudes, is colourless, but on exposure to the air it becomes milky, rapidly changing to red.

Remijia.—After Remijo, a distinguished Brazilian physician. *R. pedunculata*, Triana. The inflorescence of this species is a long stalked cyme.—*R. purdieana*, Weddell. This shrub was discovered by Purdie, a curator of the Botanic Gardens in Trinidad, in 1837.

Coffea.—The genus was named by Linnæus from the word coffee. This is derived from the Turkish, *quahveh* or Arabic, *qahweh*, both words meaning coffee. *C. arabica*, Linn. Coffee was introduced into Europe from Arabia, but the plant is indigenous to tropical Africa.—*C. liberica*, Hiern. Liberian coffee is derived from this species.

Psychotria.—The derivation of this name is uncertain, but it is probably connected with the Greek ψῡχή (psyche), life, from the valuable medicinal properties of the following species :—*P. ipecacuanha.* This is derived from the native name for the drug in Brazil, which in the earliest records appears to have been called Igpecaya. It is now termed Poaya. The native word is said to mean "the smaller roadside sick-making plant."

VALERIANACEÆ.

Valeriana.—The name has been in use since the ninth century. Its origin is doubtful, but it is usually supposed to be derived from Latin *valeo*, to be well, owing to the medicinal value of *V. officinalis.*—*V. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, *officinal.*

COMPOSITÆ.

Inula.—The old Latin for elecampane, probably derived from ἑλένιον (helenion), the Greek name for the plant. This is probably derived from ἕλος (helos), a marsh, the plant usually occurring in damp situations. It has also been referred to Helen, the heroine of the Trojan war, from whose tears the plant is said to have sprung. *I. helenium*, Linn. Greek, ἑλένιον (see above). Elecampane is probably derived from *Enula* (*Inula*) *campana*, from the province of Campania, on the west coast of Italy, where the plant was common.

Anacyclus.—A contraction of *Ananthocyclus*, a name proposed for the genus by Vaillant. Greek, ἀ, not ; ἄνθος (anthos), a flower ; κύκλος (cyclos), a circle. It refers to the row of ovaries, without flowers, found in a circle round the disk of the capitulum. *A. pyrethrum*, DC. Greek, πύρεθρον (pyrethron), the name applied by Dioscorides to this or possibly to some allied plant. It is probably derived from πῦρ (pyr), fire, in allusion to the burning taste of the roots. The English name pellitory of Spain is a misnomer. The plant does not come from Spain but from North Africa. Pellitory is applied to several plants, but is more correctly confined to the Pellitory of the Wall, the *Parietaria*, from Latin, *paries*, a wall.

Achillea.—Achilles is supposed to have used some species of this genus to heal the wounds of Telephus. *A. millefolium*, Linn. Latin, *mille*, a thousand, *folium*, a leaf. The leaf is divided into numerous minute divisions.

Anthemis.—Greek, *ἀνθεμίς* (anthemis), some flower similar in appearance to camomile, from *ἀνθέω* (antheo), to blossom. Presumably it received its name from the abundance of flowers or florets usually found in these plants. *A. nobilis*, Linn. Latin, well-known, famous. Tragus, who named the plant *Chamomilla nobilis*, probably used the term to express the German "edel," which, in botanical language, indicates useful. He may have wished to indicate its superiority to the common chamomile of Germany, *Matricaria chamomilla*. Camomile or Chamomile is the Greek *χαμαίμῆλον* (chamaimelon), derived from *χἄμαί* (chamai), on the ground; *μῆλον* (melon), an apple. It probably referred especially to *Matricaria chamomilla*, Linn., the flowers of which have been supposed to have the smell of an apple. The reference to the ground indicates the old idea that the more it was trodden upon the more luxuriantly the plant would grow :— "For though the chamomile the more it is trodden on, the faster it grows; yet youth, the more it is wasted, the sooner it wears."—*Shakespeare.*

Artemisia.—The classical name for some plant of this genus which was said to have been dedicated to Artemis (Diana). The plant is said to have been used to induce precocious puberty and to have been named after the goddess, on account of its employment for this purpose. Even in the days of Pliny, however, the origin of the word appears to have been doubtful, as he mentions a belief that it was named after Artemisia, Queen of Mausolus, King of Caria, who was said to have adopted the plant and given it her name. *A. absinthium*, Linn. *ἄψινθος* (apsinthos), the Greek for wormwood. Wormwood is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *wermôd*, mind preserver, indicating the supposed value of the plant in mental disorder.—*A. maritima* var. *Stechmanniana*, Besser. The common *A. maritima*, Linn., is frequent on the British and other coasts, and thus receives its name. The above variety occurs chiefly on the Russian steppes. The variety is named after J. P. Stechmann, who wrote on this genus. *Santonica* from Greek *σάντονιον* (santonion), wormwood, derived from the Santoni, a tribe of Southern Gaul.

Arnica.—The source of this word is doubtful. According to some authorities it is derived from ἀρνακίς (arnakis), a sheep's skin, from the texture of the leaves. Others consider it to be a corrupton of ptarmica, from the Greek πταρμός (ptarmos), sneezing, the powdered flowers being used as a sternutatory. *A. montana*, Linn. Latin, mountainous. The plant is a native of alpine meadows and mountainous districts, reaching almost to the level of the snow.

Taraxacum.—Greek, τἄράσσω (tarasso), to stir or disturb; owing to the diuretic and aperient properties of the dandelion root. *T. officinale*, Wiggers. Latin, *officinal*. The plant has been used in medicine for many centuries. By the Arabian physicians it was termed *Tarakhshlagun*. The synonyms *Leontodon*, *Dent de lion* and *Dandelion*, indicate the resemblance to a lion's tooth in the dentate margin of the leaf.

Lactuca.—Latin *lac*, milk. The plants are permeated with vessels containing a bitter, milky juice. *L. virosa*, Linn. Latin, poisonous. The plant can hardly be considered poisonous in the usual acceptation of the word, but the opiate smell and sedative action of the juice are undoubtedly responsible for the name.—*L. sativa*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. This, the common garden lettuce, has been cultivated from ancient times.

Grindelia.—The genus was named after D. H. Grindel, a German botanist, who died in 1836. *G. robusta*, Nuttall. This probably refers to the hardy character of the plant.—*G. squarrosa*, Dunal. Latin, rough. The scales of the involucre have a rough surface.

Arctium.—Greek, ἄρκτος (arktos), a bear. The roughness of the globular fruits are suggestive of a bear's coat. *A. majus*, Schkur. Latin, greater. It is larger than some other species of the genus. The synonym *Lappa* is from the Celtic *Llap*, a hand, the bristly fruit taking firm hold of neighbouring objects. The common English name, burdock, is in allusion to the large leaves, resembling those of the dock, and the rough prickly fruit known as *burs*.—*A. minus*, Schkur. Latin, smaller. The lesser burdock.

Calendula.—Latin, *calendæ*, the first day of each month. Under favourable conditions flowers are to be found open every month in the year. *C. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, *officinal*. The source of the medicinal Calendula. The English, marigold, refers to the colour of the flower which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

LOBELIACEÆ.

Lobelia.—From Mathias de l'Obel (Lobelius), a distinguished botanist who was born at Lille in 1538. He migrated to London, where he wrote some valuable works, and was appointed "botanographer to King James I." *L. inflata*, Linn. Latin, inflated. The persistent calyx becomes much distended, giving an inflated appearance to the fruit.

ERICACEÆ.

Arctostaphylos.—Greek, ἄρκτος (arktos), a bear; σταφῦλή (staphyle), a bunch of grapes. The clusters of red berries may have been supposed to have been a food for bears, or, being found in wild mountainous districts, the name may simply indicate the plant had the same habitat as the bear. *A. uva-ursi*, Sprengel. Latin, *uva*, a berry; *ursus*, a bear. Practically a repetition of *Arctostaphylos*, of which bear-berry is the English equivalent.

Gaultheria.—The genus received its name to commemorate Dr. Gaulthier, a physician and botanist, who lived at Quebec in the eighteenth century. *G. procumbens*, Linn. Latin, *procumbo*, to bend down. The plant is a small creeping shrub with long prostrate stem. It is an evergreen as indicated by its English name, Wintergreen.

SAPOTACEÆ.

Dichopsis.—Greek, δίχα (dicha), double; ὄψις (opsis), appearance. The leaves of *D. gutta* have a dull green upper surface, but below are covered with close, silky, golden-orange tomentum, the two distinct colours giving a characteristic appearance to the tree. *D. gutta*, Bentley. Gutta is the Malayan term for gum or juice, including the product of this tree.

STYRACEÆ.

Styrax.—Greek, στύραξ (styrax), the Greek name for the *Styrax officinale*, Linn., the source of the balsamic resin, which was also known as styrax. *S. benzoin*, Dryander. Benzoin is supposed to be derived from the Malayan words *Lubán Jáwi*, meaning "Incense of Java." Jáwi appears to have included Sumatra, where benzoin is produced. Benjamin is another corruption from the same source.

APOCYNACEÆ.

Strophanthus.—Greek, στρόφος (strophos), a twisted rope; ἄνθος (anthos), a flower. The name refers to the peculiar manner in which the segments of the corolla are twisted together in the

bud. *S. kombé*, Oliver. Kombé is the native name for the arrow poison prepared from the seeds in tropical Africa.—*S. hispidus*, D.C. The seed is covered with silky appressed hairs.

OLEACEÆ.

Fraxinus.—The Latin classical name for the ash tree. From Latin *frango*, to break, on account of the brittle character of the wood. *F. ornus*, Linn. *Ornus* was the Latin for a wild mountain ash, probably derived from *orno*, to adorn, on account of its elegant appearance. Manna, the sweet concrete juice, receives ts name from its supposed resemblance to the manna of the Bible, derived from the Hebrew words *man hu*, what is it?

Olea.—Oliva is the old Latin name for the olive tree, connected with the Greek ἔλαιον (elaion) oil, and ἐλαια (elaia) the olive tree. *O. europæa*, Linn. Although a native of Asia Minor, the tree has for so long been cultivated in Europe that it has received its name from this continent.

ASCLEPIADACEÆ.

Hemidesmus.—Greek, ἡμι (hemi), a prefix meaning half, δεσμός (desmos), a bond. The filaments have peculiar triangular appendages at their apices, which, uniting at their margins, form a cover to the stigma. *H. indicus*, R. Brown. The plant grows abundantly in India.

LOGANIACEÆ.

Strychnos.—Greek στρύχνος (strychnos), the name for some solanaceous plant probably possessing poisonous properties. *S. nux vomica*, Linn. Latin *nux*, a nut; *vomica*, an evil or plague. This is the mediæval name for thedrug, due doubtless to its very poisonous properties.—*S. ignatii*, Bergius. Ignatius beans were so named by the Jesuits after the founder of their order, Ignatius Loyola. The seeds were supposed in the Philippine Islands to act as a charm, and a certain Jesuit father is reported to have owed his life to the fact of having a seed in his possession when a would-be murderer endeavoured to poison him by the exhalations from certain poisonous herbs commonly used for the purpose.

Spigelia.—The genus was named by Linnæus after Adrian Spigelius, who was born in Brussels and became professor of anatomy and surgery in Padua. He was also a botanical author. He died in 1625. *S. marilandica*, Linn. Maryland, one of the United States of America, of which the plant is a native.

Gelsemium.—Formerly Gelseminum, from *Gelsemino*, an old Italian name for the jasmines. *G. nitidum*, Linn. Latin, bright, polished. Both leaves and corollas have smooth, shining surfaces. Jasmine is derived from *yásmin*, the Persian name for the common jasmine.

GENTIANACEÆ.

Gentiana.—Greek, γεντιάνη (gentiane). According to Pliny, Gentius, a king of Illyria, discovered the tonic properties of the gentians. *G. lutea*, Linn. Latin, yellow. This species has bright yellow flowers.

Swertia.—Linnæus named this genus after E. Sweert, a Dutch horticulturist and author of 'Florilegium,' who lived in the 17th century. *S. chirata*, Ham. The Sanscrit name for the plant is *Kirāta-tikta*, meaning the "bitter plant of the Kiratas." The Kiratas are "an outcast race of mountaineers in the north of India."

Menyanthes.—Greek, μηνίανθος (menianthos). The origin of the name is uncertain, as also is the plant to which it originally referred It may be derived from μήν (men), a month; ἄνθος (anthos), a flower, indicating its use as an emmenogogue, or from μίνυνθα (minuntha), a short time, from the short duration of the flowers. *M. trifoliata*, Linn. The leaves of this species are trifoliate, each leaf consisting of three nearly sessile leaflets.

Erythræa.—Greek, ἐρυθρός (erythros), red, on account of the usual colour of the flowers. *E. centaureum*, Pers. According to Pliny the name is derived from the centaur Chiron, who cured himself with it from a wound he had accidentally received from an arrow poisoned with the blood of the hydra. It is doubtful to what plant Pliny referred.

CONVOLVULACEÆ.

Convolvulus.—Latin, *convolvo*, to entwine. The name indicates the twining character of most of the plants of this genus. *C. scammonia*, Linn. Σκαμμονία (scammonia) was the Greek name for the plant.

Ipomæa.—Greek, ἴψ (ips), a worm particularly destructive to the vine, is used by Linnæus for the convolvulus. The word ἶψος (ipsos), ivy, may have some connection. ὅμοιος (homoios), like, the genus being very similar to convolvulus in habit and appearance. *I. purga*, Hayne. *Purga*, the Spanish name of jalap, is derived from Latin *purgo*, to purge, indicating the medicinal action of the drug. Jalap receives its name from Jalapa, a city in the Mexican

state of Vera Cruz, where the root is collected.—*I. simulans*, Hanbury. So named from its close resemblance to the plant yielding the true jalap, *I. purga*. It is the source of Tampico jalap, so called from the seaport of Tampico, in Mexico, whence it is exported.—*I. orizabensis*, Ledanois. This plant, yielding another variety of jalap, is found in the neighbourhood of Orizaba, a city in the midst of a very fertile district to the S.E. of Mexico.

SOLANACEÆ.

Solanum.—The origin is doubtful; by some it is attributed to the Latin *solor*, to soothe, on account of the sedative action of some species. *S. dulcamara*, Linn. Latin, *dulcis*, sweet; *amara*, bitter. It was formerly called *Amara dulcis*, and a common English name of the plant is bitter-sweet. The dried young branches, of which the drug consists, have at first a rather bitter taste, which afterwards becomes sweet.

Capsicum.—Latin, *capsa*, a box, in allusion to the conspicuous pods forming the fruits of these plants. *C. minimum*, Roxb. Latin, smallest. The pods are smaller than those of other species. —*C. annuum*, Linn. Latin, annual. This herbaceous plant is usually an annual.

Nicotiana.—Nicotiane was the name first given to the tobacco plant in France in honour of Jean Nicot, the French ambassador at Lisbon, who in 1560 introduced the plant into France. *N. tabacum*, Linn.—A latinised form of *tobaco* the name originally employed by the American Indians for the pipe used by them for smoking.

Datura.—A latinised form of an Arabic name for some plant of this genus. *D. stramonium*, Linn. The origin of the name is doubtful; it was originally applied to another species of Datura. The English synonym, thorn-apple, indicates the peculiar character of the fruit, which is covered with spines ¼ inch or more in length.

Atropa.—From its very poisonous character it was named after Atropos, one of the three fates, whose duty it was to cut the thread of life. *A. belladonna*, Linn. Italian, beautiful lady. The plant has the property of dilating the pupil, and has been used for that purpose by Italian ladies in the middle ages to give an increased brilliancy to their eyes.

Hyoscyamus.—The Greek name for the plant was ὑοσκύαμος (hyoscyamus), derived from ὗς (hus), a pig, and κύαμος (kuamos) a bean. The fruit was said to be eaten by pigs with impunity. *H. niger*, Linn. Latin, black. The corolla is reticulated with dark purple veins, which distinguish this from other species. Henbane indicates the poisonous effect of the seed upon poultry.

Duboisia.—The genus is named after Louis Dubois, the author of various botanical works. *D. myoporoides*, R. Brown. The plant is somewhat similar in appearance to another Australian shrub, the myoporum.

SCROPHULARIACEÆ.

Digitalis.—Latin, *digitus*, a finger. The tubular, bell-shaped corolla bears some resemblance to the finger of a glove. The *digitabulum* was a finger-cap used in gathering olives, and may have suggested the name to Fuchs, the German botanist who named the genus. *D. purpurea*, Linn. The corolla is of a purplish crimson colour. Foxglove, formerly folksglove, indicates that the flowers were supposed to be used by the "folks" or fairies, who occupied so important a place in mediæval lore. In Germany it is known as *fingerput* (finger-hat), in France *gants de Notre Dame* (gloves of Our Lady). In the north of Scotland it is known as "Deadman's bells," while in the lowlands it is called "bloody fingers."

Veronica.—The genus is said to be named in honour of St. Veronica (*vera icon*, the true image), who it supposed to have suffered martyrdom under Nero. *V. virginica*, Linn. This plant, the source of Leptandra, or Culvers Root, is a native of Virginia and others of the eastern United States.

PEDALIACEÆ.

Sesamum.—The following plant has been cultivated for the sake of its oily seeds from the earliest times, and was known by the Egyptians as *Semsent*, the Arabic name being *Simsim*. *S. indicum*, D.C. This annual herb is indigenous to India.

LABIATÆ.

Lavandula.—Latin, *lavo*, to wash. Lavender water has long been used as a perfume for baths. *L. vera*, D.C. Latin, true. The species has for long been cultivated as the source of true lavender. By Linnæus it was considered a variety of *L. spica*.—*L. spica*, D.C. French *aspic*, from Latin *spica*, an ear of corn, and

hence a head or tuft of flowers. The inflorescence of lavender is a spike.

Mentha.—The Greek μίνθη (minthe) is the classical name for the mints. It is said to be derived from the nymph Menthe, whom Proserpine in jealousy transformed into this plant. *M. pulegium*, Linn. *Pulegium*, or *Puleium* of the ancient Romans, is believed to have been this species. It is derived from *pulex*, a flea, as according to Pliny the blossom "fresh gathered and burnt kills fleas by its smell." The English name, pennyroyal, is the "Pulioll-royall" of the old herbalists.—*M. viridis*, Linn. Latin, green. The common garden mint used as a condiment. Spearmint probably indicates the narrow, elongated shape of the spikes which form the inflorescence.—*M. piperita*, Smith. From Latin, *piper*, pepper. This and the common English name, peppermint, indicate the hot aromatic taste which is first produced by the oil which is found in all parts of the plant. This hot taste is followed by a sensation of coldness.—*M. arvensis*, D.C. Latin, pertaining to fields. The plant is found both in cultivated fields and in wild places. The varieties *piperascens* (becoming hot) and *glabrata* (smooth) are the sources of Japanese oil of peppermint, from which menthol is chiefly obtained.

Origanum.—The Greek ὀρίγανον (origanon) probably referred to some plant of this genus. It is supposed to be derived from ὀρός (oros), a mountain, and γάνος (ganos), beauty. Some species are found in mountainous districts, where their graceful flowers and aromatic perfume add to the charm of the district. *O. vulgare*, Linn. Latin, common. The English name, marjoram, is derived from the Latin, *amaracus*, the origin of which is doubtful.

Thymus.—Greek, θύμος (thumos), thyme. It is generally supposed to be derived from θυμος (thumos), the soul, hence courage; the aromatic odour is supposed to revive the spirits. It may be connected with θύω (thuo), to offer sacrifice, and applied to this or some other aromatic plant used in sacrificial rites. *T. vulgaris*, Linn. Latin, common.

Salvia.—This is the old Latin name for sage, and is derived from *salveo*, to be well. In ancient times the medicinal virtues of the plant were more esteemed than in the present day. *S. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, officinal. The common sage has long been used for culinary and medicinal purposes.

Rosmarinus.—Latin, *ros*, dew ; *mare*, the sea. The plant is a native of the Mediterranean district, and is usually found in warm situations near the coast. *R. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, officinal. Rosemary is much used as a perfume.

Monarda.—Nicolas Monardes was a distinguished physician of Seville, who published in 1569 an important work on the then known medicinal products of the recently discovered continent. The Monardas, being plants found exclusively in North America, were named in honour of him. *M. punctata*, Linn. Latin, *punctum*, a point. The under surface of the leaf is dotted with glands containing the essential oil.

Marrubium.—This is the Latin name for horehound used by Pliny. Its origin is uncertain, but it is supposed to be derived from the town of Marrubium, in Latium, in the neighbourhood of which the plant is plentiful. *M. vulgare*, Linn. Latin, common. Horehound is probably a corruption of its Anglo-Saxon name, *hâra hune*. The prefix *hâra* means grey, and refers to the white downy hairs with which the plant is covered. *Hune* implies strong-scented.

Leonurus.—From the Greek λέων (leon), a lion, and οὐρά (oura), a tail. The spikes of flowers were supposed to bear some resemblance to a lion's tail. *L. cardiaca*, Linn. Latin, pertaining to the stomach. The plant is used to promote digestion. Motherwort, the common English name, is said by Parkinson to be so called from being "of wonderful helpe to women in the risings of the mother," or hysterics.

BORAGINACEÆ.

Borago.—Borago is said to have been altered from Corago ; Latin, *cor*, the heart ; *ago*, to move. Pliny says that wine in which borage has been infused cheers the heart. A more probable derivation is from the Low Latin *borra*, rough hair, the leaves being furnished with bristly hairs. *B. officinalis*, Linn. Latin, officinal. This is the source of medicinal borage.

Anchusa.— Greek ἀνχούσα (anchousa), the anchusa, hence the dye prepared from it. The following species has long been used as a dye, and was at one time esteemed as a paint for the face. Alkanet is the Spanish *alcaña*, from the Arabic "*al henna*," the henna. *A. tinctoria*, Linn. Latin, *tingo*, to dye. The source of the dye alkanet.

POLYGONACEÆ.

Polygonum.—Greek, πολύς (polus), many; γόνυ (gonu), a knee or joint. The numerous joints or knots in the stem are characteristic of many species of this genus. *P. bistorta*, Linn. Latin, *bis*, twice; *tortus*, twisted. The rhizome, which has long been known as bistort, is twice-bent.

Rheum.—The origin of rheum and rhubarb is Ῥά (rha), the classical name for the River Volga, on the banks of which the plant may have been indigenous; more probably the fact of the trade route from Southern Siberia crossing the Volga, or Rha, is responsible for the name. *R. officinale*, Baillon. Latin, officinal. One of the sources of medicinal rhubarb.—*R. palmatum*, Linn. The leaves of this species are distinctly palmate in shape. *R. rhaponticum*, Linn. *Rha-ponticum*, the Pontic rhubarb. The plant is a native of Southern Siberia, but was probably brought *via* the Black (Pontic) Sea. Dioscorides describes rhubarb as *Rha ponticum*. Rhubarb appears to mean the barbarian Rha-plant.

MYRISTICACEÆ.

Myristica.—Greek μύρον (muron), a distilled perfume, referring to the aromatic volatile oil yielded by species of this genus. *M. fragans*, Houttuyn. Latin, fragrant. The volatile oil is here referred to. Nutmeg means the "musk nut" from early French *muge*. Latin *muscum*, musk.

LAURACEÆ.

Nectandra.—Schomburgk, who first describes the following species, mentions that glandular bodies are found at the base of the three inner stamens, and the word is probably coined from the Greek νέκταρ (nectar), contained in the glands, and ἀνήρ (aner), a man, hence stamen. *N. Rodiæi*, Schomburgk. Named in honour of Hugh Rodie, a naval surgeon, who settled in Demerara and discovered the medicinal virtues of the bark. Bebeern is the native name of the tree. The timber, known as greenheart, is largely used for shipbuilding, owing to its freedom from attack by the shipworm *Teredo navalis*.

Sassafras.—The name was given to the tree by Monardes, the Spanish botanist. It is derived from the Spanish *Salsafras*, saxifrage, presumably from reputed similarity in medicinal properties. Latin, *saxum*, a stone; *frango*, to break. This may refer to the habit of the saxifrages of growing in rocky situations, but the name is supposed to have been given originally to some

plant which was used for breaking up stone in the bladder. *S. officinale*, Nees. Latin, officinal. The source of the medicinal sassafras bark.

Laurus.—This is the classical name for the bay laurel. It appears to be connected with the Celtic word, *blaur* (pronounced laur), green ; the laurel being an evergreen shrub. *L. nobilis*, Linn. Latin, famous. The name indicates the use made of this, the true laurel in classical times, the leaves being employed to make wreaths, with which the victorious generals were crowned. The term bay, which is also applied to the plant, appears to be derived from the Latin, *Bacca*, a berry. The fruits are commonly known as bay berries.

Cinnamomum.—Theophrastus uses the Greek κινάμωμον (kinamomon) for cinnamom. It was introduced by the Phœnicians, who probably derived the word from the Arabic equivalent, *Kinamon*. *C. camphora*, Nees. Camphor is derived from the Arabic equivalent, *Kâfur*, which is said to have its origin in the Malay word Kápúr, meaning chalk.—*C. cassia*, Blume. The Greek κασία (kasia) was the name of an aromatic bark, probably derived from this tree. The word appears to be Phœnician in origin.—*C. zeylanicum*, Breyn. Latin, Ceylonese. The plant is a native of and is also largely cultivated in Ceylon. It is the source of true cinnamon.

URTICACEÆ.

Ficus.—Latin, *ficus* ; Anglo-Saxon, *fic*, the fig, have probably a common origin. *F. carica*, Linn. Latin, *carica*, a dried fig. They were produced in the province of Caria, in Asia Minor.

Morus.—Latin, *morus*, the mulberry tree; Greek, μόρον (moron), the black mulberry. *M. nigra*, Linn. Latin, black, from the nearly black colour of the ripe fruit.

Humulus.—The genus was named by Linnæus, who is supposed to have derived the word from Latin *humus*, the soil, because the plant, unless supported, remains prostrate on the ground. *H. lupulus*, Linn. *Lupulus* is a contraction of *Lupus salictarius* (Pliny), the wolf of the willows. Hops used to grow amongst the willows, which they are said to have killed by twining round them, and were thus supposed to be as destructive to them as the wolf to the flock. It may simply indicate that they were as tenacious of the willow as the wolf of its prey. Hop is believed to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *hoppan*, to climb.

Urtica.—Latin, *uro*, to burn ; indicating the burning sensation produced by the formic acid in the stings. *U. dioica*, Linn. The flowers are diœcious. (See *Bryonia dioica*).—*U. urens*, Linn. Latin, *uro*, to burn ; being a repetition of Urtica.

Cannabis.—Greek, κάννᾰβις (cannabis), hemp. κάννα (canna) is the Greek word for reed, and was applied also to woven materials prepared from it. *C. sativa*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. The variety *indica* is produced in India.

Ulmus.—The Latin for an elm tree. It appears to be connected with the Saxon *elm* or *ulm* of the same meaning, the derivation of which is not known.—*U. campestris*, Linn. Latin, pertaining to a field. The common elm, so frequently seen in lanes and hedgerows between fields. *U. fulva*, Michaux. Latin, tawny. The under surfaces of the leaves and the young twigs are thickly pubescent with reddish-coloured hairs. It is known as the slippery elm on account of the sticky mucilaginous matter contained in the inner bark which is readily removed by water.

CUPULIFERÆ.

Quercus.—The Latin name for the oak-tree. Various improbable suggestions have been made as to the derivation of the word, but the etymology is unknown. *Q. robur*, Linn. The Latin for a species of very hard oak. It is probably connected with the Greek root ῥω (rho), indicating strength. *Q. lusitanica*, var. *infectoria*, A.DC. The species derives it name from Lusitania, the ancient name for the western part of the Spanish Peninsula, one of its many habitats. The variety *infectoria* (Latin, *infector*, dyeing) is spread over a wide area. The galls of commerce are obtained from trees growing in the province of Aleppo, in the north of Syria. They are largely used in the process of dyeing.

JUGLANDACEÆ.

Juglans.—Latin for a walnut. It is usually supposed to be a contraction of *Jovis glans*, the nut of Jupiter ; but more probably it is derived from *jungo* (to join), and *glans*—*i.e.*, the joined nut, from the shell being divided into two parts. *J. regia*, Linn. Latin, royal, from the high esteem in which the walnut has long been held. Walnut is the Anglo Saxon *Wealh-hnut*, the foreign nut.—*J. cinerea*, Linn. Latin, ashy-grey. Probably so-called from the downy hair on the leaves giving the foliage a grey appearance. It is the source of butternut bark. Butternut is so-called from the oily nature of its fruit.

SALICACEÆ.

Salix.—The Latin name for the willow. The origin of the word is doubtful, but it has been suggested that it is derived from *salio*, to spring out, on account of its rapid growth. Other writers attribute it to the Celtic words *sal* (near) and *lis* (water) on account of the damp situations in which it flourishes. *S. alba*, Linn. Latin, white. The under surface of the leaf is whitish with silky hairs, giving the grey colour which is characteristic of the white willows.

THYMELACEÆ.

Daphne.—The Greek δάφνη (daphne) signified the bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*). The genus receives its name from the fact that the foliage of many species resembles that of the true laurel. *D. mezereum*, Linn. This is said to be derived from the Persian *Madzariyun*, the name of this or an allied species.—*D. laureola*, Linn. Latin diminutive of *Laurus*, the laurel, the leaves of which bear some resemblance.—*D. gnidium*, Linn. Gnidus or Cnidus was an old province of Asia Minor, where the plant was probably indigenous.

EUPHORBIACEÆ.

Mallotus.—Greek, μαλλός (mallos), wool. The younger branches and under surfaces of the leaves are covered with dense woolly hairs. *Rottlera*, another name for the genus, is from Rev. Dr. Rottler, a Danish missionary to India. *M. philippinensis*, Müll. The tree is a native of the Philippine Islands, as well as India (where kamala is collected) and other parts of Asia. Kamala is the native name for the drug in Bengal.

Ricinus.—Latin, a dog-tick, from the resemblance which the seeds bear to this parasite. *R. communis*, Linn. Latin, common. *Palma-Christi* is an old name for the plant, the seeds of which yield castor oil.

Croton.—Greek, κροτών (kroton), the equivalent of the Latin *Ricinus*. These seeds also bear some resemblance to the tick. The Greek word appears to have been also applied to the castor oil seed. *C. tiglium*, Linn. Etymology unknown.—*C. eluteria*, J. J. Bennett. From Eleuthera, one of the Bahama Islands, of which the shrub is a native. Cascarilla is the diminutive of the Spanish *Cascara*, bark.

Euphorbia.—Greek, ἐυφόρβιον (euphorbion), the resin obtained from some of these plants. It is said to be named after Euphorbus,

a physician to Juba, king of Mauritania, who first used the plants for medicinal purposes. *E. resinifera*, Berg. Latin, resin-bearing. The concrete milky juice is the gum resin, euphorbium.—*E. pilulifera*. The inflorescence is arranged in small globular masses.

Hevea.—The Caribbean name for the tree is Hevé. *H. brasiliensis*, Muell. The source of Para rubber, Para being a province in Northern Brazil.

Stillingia.—After Dr. Benjamin Stillingfleet, an English botanical author of the eighteenth century. *S. sylvatica*, Linn. Latin pertaining to woods, indicating the habit of the plant.

PIPERACEÆ.

Piper.—Latin, pepper. The Sanskrit *pippali* and Greek πέπερι (peperi) are from the same root. *P. angustifolium*, Ruiz and Pavon. Latin, narrow-leaved. The leaves are oblong-lanceolate in shape. *Matico* is the Spanish name for the shrub.—*P. cubeba*, Linn. Probably derived from *kababan*, the Arabic, or *kebabe*, the Indian name of the spice.—*P. longum*, Linn. The long, dried, unripe spike is the long pepper of commerce.—*P. nigrum*, Linn. Latin, black. The berries are red when collected, but become black on drying.

ARISTOLOCHIACEÆ.

Aristolochia —The classical name for certain species. Greek, ἄριστος (aristos), best; λοχεία (locheia), child-birth. This and the English equivalent—birthwort—indicate the esteem in which certain of these plants were held for their supposed efficacy in child-birth. *A. serpentaria*, Linn. The plant is known in America as Virginian snake-root. It was supposed to be an antidote to the bites of serpents, but is not now regarded as of any value for this purpose.—*A. reticulata*, Nutt. The leaves are prominently reticulated on the lower surface.

SANTALACEÆ.

Santalum.—*Sandal* is the Arabic and *sandul* the Persian for the aromatic wood yielded by the following species. They are doubtless derived from the Sanskrit equivalent *Chandana*, the derivation of which is unknown. *S. album*, Linn. Latin, white, indicating the light colour of the wood, and distinguishing it from other varieties, and especially from the red sandal or sanders wood, the product of *Pterocarpus santalinus*, Linn.

CONIFERÆ.

Taxus.—The Latin name for the yew. The derivation is uncertain, but it is supposed to be connected with the Greek τόξον (toxon), a bow, as this weapon was frequently made from the wood. *T. baccata*, Linn. Latin, bearing berries. The fruit, although not botanically a berry, is similar in appearance.

Juniperus—Latin for the juniper tree. The etymology is uncertain, but it is supposed to be connected with the Celtic *joneprus*, rough, in allusion to the short, pointed leaves. *J. communis*, Linn. Latin, common. This is the most frequent species of the genus.—*J. sabina*, Linn. The Latin name for the plant. *Savin* is a corruption of the same word.—*J. oxycedrus*, Linn. Greek, ὀξύς (oxus), pointed, κέδρος (kedros), cedar. The leaves are sharply pointed.

Pinus.—The Latin name for *Pinus pinea*, Linn. The origin of the word is unknown, it has been attributed by some writers to the Celtic *pin* or *pyn*, meaning rock, from the mountainous habitats of the tree.—*P. pinaster*, Solander. The name given to a species of pine by Pliny, probably from *pinus* and *astrum*, a star, from the radiate arrangement of the leaves.—*P. sylvestris*, Linn. Latin, wild, pertaining to a wood. The Scotch fir is still found as a native in some of the Highland forests.—*P. australis*, Michaux. Latin, southern. This is the common pine of Florida and other south-eastern states of North America. It is not found in the northern states. The older name for the tree is *P. palustris*, but this has been discarded, from the fact that it inhabits dry plains and is not found in marshes.—*P. tæda*, Linn. Tæda is the Latin name for some species of pine tree.—*P. larix*, Linn. The Latin name for the larch. Its origin is probably the Celtic, *lar*, fat, from the abundance of opaque oleo-resin secreted by the tree. Venice turpentine is obtained from this tree. It is produced in the Tyrol, and at one time was largely exported from Venice.—*P. abies*, Du Roi. The Latin name for this, the silver pine. The derivation is unknown, but it is also supposed to have a Celtic origin.—*P. balsamea*, Linn. The balsam fir, so-called from the liquid oleo-resin, known as Canada balsam, which is obtained from it.—*P. canadensis*, Linn. This fir, the hemlock spruce, is widely distributed in Canada, extending also into the northern parts of the United States.—*P. pumilio*, Hæneke. Latin, dwarf. This is one of the smaller species of pine, being only about 20 feet in height.

Picea.—Latin, *pix*, pitch. *P. excelsa*, Link. Latin, high. This, the common spruce fir, has long been a source of pitch and turpentine. So-called Burgundy pitch is the oleo-resin obtained from this tree. It is not, however, produced in Burgundy, but comes mostly from Finland and the Black Forest.

Callitris.—Greek, κάλλιστος (kallistos), most beautiful; referring to the graceful character of the tree. *C. quadrivalvis*, Ventenat. The female catkin has four oval lobes.

ZINGIBERACEÆ.

Zingiber.—This and the various allied names for ginger are originally derived from the Sanskrit. Zingiber is the Indian name for the rhizome. *Z. officinale*, Roscoe. Latin officinal. The source of the ginger of commerce.

Elettaria.—*Elettari* is the native name for the cardamom plant in Malabar, where it is cultivated. *E. cardamomum*, Maton. The Greek word καρδάμωμον (kardamomon) appears to have been the name of some Indian spice. The Greek, κάρδαμον (kardamon) indicated a kind of cress.

Amomum.—Greek, ἄμωμον (amomon), an Indian spice, possibly the seed of a species of *Amomum*. The Greek word is probably derived from the Arabic name *hamauma*, from *hamma*, to warm, indicating the burning taste of the spice. *A. melegueta*, Roscoe. The name first appears in the thirteenth century as *melegetæ*, which was applied to the seeds of this plant then exported from Tripoli (Africa). It has been suggested that the word is derived from *melica*, millet, from a similarity in the appearance of the seeds, but this is hardly probable. Grains of Paradise, an old name for the seeds, indicates the esteem in which they were held.

Curcuma.—The Arabic word *kurkum* was applied to turmeric and saffron, both being used as a yellow dye. *C. longa*, Linn. Turmeric consists of the elongated tubers or root stock. The round and long varieties are both obtained from this plant; the former, being the central rhizomes, are ovate; the latter, being the secondary or lateral tubers, are longer and more cylindrical in form.

Alpinia.—Named after Prospero Alpini, a distinguished Italian physician and botanist, who died about 1615. *A. officinarum*, Hance. Latin, *officina*, a workshop, hence useful. It is the source of galangal, an aromatic stimulant.

IRIDACEÆ.

Iris.—Iris, in mythology, was the messenger of the gods and the goddess of the rainbow. The genus is appropriately associated with this goddess, as it includes flowers of every variety of colour and of the most exquisite beauty. *I. florentina*, Linn. The plant has for long been cultivated in the district around Florence for its rhizome, which, when scraped and dried, is popularly known as orris root, probably a corruption of iris root.—*I. pallida*, Linn. The flowers are usually of a pale lilac colour. It is another source of orris root.—*I. germanica*, Linn. The plant is a native of Southern Germany and neighbouring countries. The rhizomes are collected with those of the two former species for the production of orris root.—*I. versicolor*, Linn. Latin, various coloured. The flower includes the two typical colours of the iris—purple and yellow.

Crocus.—Greek, κρόκος (krokos), the purple crocus and saffron which is obtained from it. The origin of the word is uncertain, but it would appear to have some connection with the Greek, κρόκη (kroke), a thread; saffron consisting of the thread-like stigmas with parts of the styles attached. *C. sativus*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. The plant has from very early times been cultivated for the production of saffron. It is not known in a wild state. The name saffron is derived from the Arabic word *asfar*, yellow. It was formerly cultivated in the neighbourhood of Cambridge and Saffron Walden.

ORCHIDACEÆ.

Vanilla.—From the Spanish name *vainilla*, the diminutive of *vaina*, a pod, sheath, or scabbard. The shape of the fruit suggests the name. *V. planifolia*, Andrews. Latin, flat leaved. The thick dark green leaf has a smooth flat surface.

CANNACEÆ.

Maranta.—In honour of Bartolommeo Maranti, a Venetian physician and author of medical works, who lived in the sixteenth century. *M. arundinacea*, Linn. Latin, *arundo*, a reed or cane. This herbaceous perennial has a reed-like stem 5 or 6 feet in height. It is the source of the starch known as arrowroot. The origin of the word arrowroot is generally attributed to its supposed virtues as an application to the wounds produced by the poisoned arrows of the American Indians. Other writers regard it as derived from

the Indian word *aru*, meaning flour. The latter would appear the more likely derivation.

Canna.—Greek, *κάννα* (kanna), a reed. *C. edulis*, Ker. Latin, edible. This and probably other species of the genus are cultivated for the production of starch.

PALMÆ.

Areca.—The native name for the tree in the Malabar district. *A. catechu*, Linn. An astringent extract is obtained from areca nuts similar to that prepared from *Acacia catechu*, Willd. (*vide ante*).

Arenga.—Aven and Aren are native names for the tree of Java of which island it is a native *A. saccharifera*, Labill Latin, sugar-bearing. It is one of the chief sources of palm sugar. The starch obtained from the interior of the stem is a variety of sago.

Metroxylon.—Greek, *μήτρα* (metra), pith; *ξύλον* (xylon), wood. The following species is the chief source of sago, which obtained from the centre of the stem. *M. sagu*, Rottb. The Malay name for sago; it is apparently derived from the same word in Papuan, meaning bread.

Calamus.—Latin, a reed or cane. The stems of various species form the rattan canes of commerce. *C. draco*, Willd. Latin, a dragon. The red inspissated juice of this palm is one of the sources of the dragon's-blood of commerce.

ARACEÆ.

Acorus.—The name used by Dioscorides to designate the following species. It is usually attributed to the Greek *ἀ*, without; *κόρη*, kore, the pupil of the eye; from its supposed virtues in affections of the eye. *A. calamus*, Linn. Latin, a reed, from its reed-like stem and leaves. It is called sweet flag from its aromatic odour.

LILIACEÆ.

Allium.—The Latin for garlic. It is usually supposed to be derived from the Celtic word *all*, hot or burning, on account of its pungent taste. *A. sativum*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. Garlic has been in cultivation from very early times. Garlic is the Anglo-Saxon *gârlèc*; from *gâr*, a lance, referring to the spear-shaped leaves, and *leâc*, a pot herb.

Urginia.—From Ben Urgin, an Arab tribe in Algeria, where the plant is abundant. *U. scilla*, Steinheil. The Greek name for the plant was *σκίλλα* (scilla); it was probably derived from the

Arabic synonym, *ásgyl*. The Linnæan name for the plant, *Scilla maritima*, indicates that it is found more frequently on the sea coast.

Aloe.—Αλόη (aloe) was the Greek name for the plants. It is probably derived from the Arabic equivalent, *álloèh*, or the Syriac *alwai*. *A. vera*, Linn. The common aloes of northern Africa and Spain.—*Aloe vulgaris*, Lam., is a synonym.—*A. succotrina*, Lam. This species is a native of Socotra, an island off the east coast of Africa, and about 200 miles to the south of Arabia.—*A. perryi*, Baker. Lieut. Wykenham Perry first brought specimens of this plant to Kew. *A. spicata*, Linn. Latin, pointed. This may refer to the inflorescence, which is spicate, or to the leaves, which are sharply pointed.—*A. chinensis*, Hort. A native of China, now cultivated in the West Indies.—*A. ferox*, H. K. Latin, savage. The surface of the leaf is characterised by scattered spines, giving the plant an uninviting appearance. The aloes or Lignum aloes of the Bible has no connection with plants of this genus, being a resinous wood, valued for its aromatic properties. Several species of agave, cultivated in the south of Europe, are commonly called aloes. The agave is distinguished from the aloe by its inferior ovary.

Veratrum.—The classical name for one or more species. It is usually supposed to be derived from the Latin *vere*, truly, and *ater*, black, referring to the dark colour of the roots. The Veratra are often called Hellebores, a name which should be confined to the genus and ellborus.—*V. album*, Linn. Latin, white. The perianth is whitish within but greenish without.—*V. viride*, Solunder. The perianth is greenish in colour, the base being rather darker than in the previous species.

Schœnocaulon.—Greek, σχοίνος (schoinos), a rush; καυλός (kaulos), a stem. The naked flower-stalk resembles in appearance the stem of a rush. *Asagræa*, the name adopted by Lindley for this genus, was intended to commemorate Professor Asa Gray, the distinguished American, botanist of Harvard University. *S. officinale*, A. Gray. Latin, officinal. Cevadilla is the Mexican name for the plant.

Colchicum.—Greek, κολχικόν (colchicon), the name for the following, or an allied species, which was found in Colchis, a province in Asia, east of the Black Sea. *C. autumnale*, Linn. The plant blossoms in the autumn. It is popularly called the meadow

saffron. The flower is similar to saffron in general appearance, but differs from it by having six stamens instead of three.

SMILACEÆ.

Smilax.—The Greek name used by Dioscorides. It is probably derived from the Greek σμίλη (smile), a knife for carving or engraving. The common species in Southern Europe is *S. aspera*, the stem of which is rough, with sharp prickles. *S. ornata*, Lemaire. Latin, adorned, equipped. The leaves are beautifully variegated, with silvery grey spots on dark green ground. The plant is provided with short prickles. Sarsaparilla is a compound of the two Spanish words *zarza*, a bramble, and *parilla*, the diminutive of *parra*, a vine. This species is the source of Jamaica sarsaparilla, so-called because it was formerly shipped by way of that island from Central America.—*S. medica*, Schlecht. Latin, curative; from its supposed medicinal properties. It is the source of Mexican sarsaparilla.

GRAMINEÆ.

Oryza.—The Greek word ὄρυζα derived from the Arabic *êruz*, rice. The modern synonyms rice, riz, reis, etc., have doubtless the same origin. *O. sativa*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. Rice has been in constant cultivation from remote antiquity.

Avena.—Latin for oats. The derivation is obscure, but it is believed to be of celtic origin and may be from the word *aten* (from etan, to eat), the source also of oat. *A. sativa*, Linn. Latin, cultivated. The earliest record of the cultivation of oats is by Pliny, who states that it was grown in Central Europe.

Hordeum.—The ancient Latin name for barley. Its origin is unknown. *H. distichon*, Linn. From the Greek δίς (dis), double; στίχος (stichos), a row. The grains of barley are arranged in two rows on opposite sides of the flattened rachis.

Triticum.—Latin for wheat. It is probably derived from Latin *tero*, to rub, indicating the practice of grinding the grain. *T. sativum*, Lam. Latin, cultivated. Wheat is unknown as a wild plant, and its cultivation is as ancient as the history of man. —*T. repens*, Linn. Latin, creeping. The common couch-grass is characterised by a creeping rootstock, enabling it to spread rapidly over a large area, and thus making it one of the most troublesome of weeds.

Zea.—Greek, ζειά (zeia), an undetermined species of grain used as fodder for horses. It is derived from ζάω (zaω), to live, to be strong, denoting the nutritive property of the grain. *Z. mays*, Linn. A native American name for Indian corn.

Andropogon.—Greek, ἀνήρ (aner), a man; πώγων (pogon), a beard. The grass has tufts of hair resembling a beard below the spikelets. *A. nardus*, Linn. The Greek word, νάρδος (nardos) referred to certain plants yielding an aromatic oil, of which lemon grass was probably one. The names lemon-grass and citronella indicate the resemblance of this oil to that of lemon, both of which contain citral.

Saccharum.—This and the various synonyms for sugar probably have their origin in the Arabic *soukar*, the derivation of which is not known. *S. officinarum*, Linn. Latin, officinal, useful. The source of cane sugar.

LYCOPODIACEÆ.

Lycopodium.—Greek, λύκος (lukos), a wolf; πούς (pous), a foot. The leafy shoots bear some resemblance in shape to the foot of a wolf. Stagshorn and club-moss are common names also intended to indicate points of similarity. *L. clavatum*, Linn. Latin, *clava*, a club. The short branches or shoots are club-shaped.

FILICES.

Aspidium.—Greek, ἀσπις (aspis), a round shield; in allusion to the form of the indusium. *A. filix-mas*, Swartz. Latin, *filix*, a fern; *mas*, a male. Male fern is a mediæval name for the species.

LICHENES.

Rocella.—An old Italian name for Dyer's weed. It is probably derived from *rocca*, a rock; these lichens growing on rocks of the sea-shore. *R. tinctoria*, DC. Latin, *tingo*, to dye. The blue pigment, litmus, is prepared from this and other species.

Cetraria.—Latin, cetra, a short Spanish shield or buckler, in allusion to the shape of the apothecia. *C. islandica*, Ach. Iceland moss, the common name for the plant, would appear to imply that that island is the chief source of the drug but although found there, as in many parts, it is only collected for exportation in Sweden, whence we obtain our supply. It is not a moss, but a true lichen.

FUNGI.

Claviceps.—Latin, *clavus*, a nail or peg ; *caput*, a head. The name refers to the capitate form of the perfect fungus, not to ergot as it appears in commerce. *C. purpurea*, Tulasne. The colour of ergot is purple brown. Ergot is the French name for the drug, the actual meaning being a spur, as applied to birds, etc. Secale cornutum, a common name for the drug, means the "porned rye."

ALGÆ.

Fucus.—The Greek word Φύκος (phukos) was applied generally to seaweeds. *F. vesiculosus*, Linn. Latin, *vesicula*, a blister or vesicle. This refers to the air-vesicles, which are found in the substance of the frond. The common name, bladder wrack, has the same significance.

Chondrus.—Greek, χόνδρος (chondros), cartilage. This seaweed when boiled in water forms a gelatinous substance somewhat resembling that obtained from animal cartilage. *C. crispus*, Lyngbye. Latin, curled, waving ; referring to the uneven surface of the frond. It is collected largely on the west coast of Ireland, and is commonly known as Irish moss.

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