medy, the above proportions have proved sufficiently active. It is applied to the throat as extensively as possible, by means of a large camel's hair brush. This is easily done by an assistant, while the root of the tongue is depressed with a spoon handle; or the patient, after a little practice, may readily apply it himself. It allays titillation and coughing, and the application should be repeated as often as these symptoms become troublesome, whether by day or by night.

The same solution is a valuable application for the external meatus of the ears, but for this purpose glycerine should be substituted for the syrup.

IV.—REPORT ON THE MEDICAL BOTANY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

BY JOSIAH HALE, M.D.

The undersigned, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Louisiana State Medical Society, at the annual meeting in March, 1851, "On the Botany and Natural History of this and the adjoining States," begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee, in discharge of a part of the duty assigned them, present a catalogue of indigenous, naturalized, and a portion of the cultivated plants growing in this State, that have been employed in medicine, together with some observations on their medical properties.

—DIVISION I.—POLYPETALOUS, EXOGYNOUS PLANTS.

Order, Ranunculaceae. (Crowfoot Family.)

Many plants of this order have been employed in medicine, but with few exceptions they are now neglected. They generally contain an acrid principle, which is readily destroyed by heat, or is dissipated by drying.

Clematis cylindrica, L. C. reticulata, Walt. C. Virginica, L. (Virgin's Bower.)

These are climbing, shrubby plants; they possess the general properties of the order, and the two last have been employed in medicine. Diaphoretic and diuretic.

Anemone Caroliniana, Walt. (Wind-flower.) Acrid, rubifacient.
Hepatica triloba, Choix. (Liverwort.) Demulcent and slightly astringent. Grows in St. Tammany.

Ranunculus sceleratus, L. (Butter-cup.) In the fresh state very acrid, producing blisters; with as much promptness as Spanish flies; when dry, inert. Several other species are natives of this State, some of which possess properties similar to the above.


Order, Magnoliaceae. (Magnolia Family.)

The plants of this order, natives of this State, are all trees; several of them remarkable for the size of their leaves, and the magnitude and fragrance of their flowers.

Magnolia Magnifolia, M. (Cucumber tree.) A rather small tree; leaves deciduous, large, occasionally 36 inches long by 12 in. breadth. Flowers large, fragrant, the petals 8 inches long by 3 wide.

Magnolia cordata, M. (Cucumber tree.) Leaves deciduous. M. grandiflora, L. (Large-flowered magnolia.) Leaves perennial, coriaceous, dark green shining above. M. glauca, L. (Swamp Laurel.) A small tree; leaves evergreen, flowers very fragrant. The medical properties of all our species are identical, and may, therefore, be employed indiscriminately.

The bark of the Magnolia is a tonic bitter of considerable power; it was in use among the Indians as a remedy for autumnal fevers and rheumatism, and has proved beneficial in the hands of regular practitioners in the treatment of remittents having a typhoid character. The cones and seeds are likewise employed to make a tincture, which is a popular remedy in the treatment of chronic rheumatism, and a prophylactic against intermittent fevers. Wood.

Leriodendron tulipifera, L. (Poplar.) The bark is simply bitter and tonic, containing a small proportion of an aromatic property, and an essential oil. It has been found by Dr. Emenee to contain a new principle, supposed to be analogous to camphor. The bark of the Tulip tree closely resembles that of Magnolia in its medical properties, but is less aromatic, and more stimulant. In warm decoction it acts as a sudorific, and sometimes as a diuretic. Griff.


Order, Annonaceae. (Popaw Family.)

Uvaria triloba, Tor. and Gr. (Popaw.) The succulent fruit is edi-
ble and much esteemed by those accustomed to it. A beer is made from it. The seeds, eaten by children, have proved actively emetic. The bark, by maceration, is capable of being manufactured into ropes, Russia mats, etc. Grows abundantly in Rapides, and other parts of the State. Alluvial soil.


Order, Schizandraeae. (Schizandra Family.)

Schizandra coccinea, M. A climbing shrub, with thick, soft, slightly pungent and aromatic bark; used in domestic practice as a substitute for sarsaparilla, the name of which it bears in some parts of the country.

Order, Menispermaeae. (Moonseed Family.)

Coccus Carolinianus, D. C. Sometimes called Sarsaparilla, and used as a substitute for it. Bitter, tonic.

Menispernum Lyonnii, Ph. Moonseed Root. Bitter, tonic.

Order, Berberidaceae. (Bearberry Family.)

Pedophyllum peltatum, L. (May Apple.) Grows in fertile hills; fruit edible. The root was in common use among the Indians before the settlement of the country by the whites, and was considered by them as one of their most powerful purgatives. (Griff.) In the hands of physicians it has proved to be a certain and safe cathartic, rather more drastic than Jalap. It is sometime harsh in its operation, giving rise to tenesmus and profuse discharges. (Carson.) Combined with cream of tartar it forms an admirable hydrogogue cathartic. Dose of the root in powder, 10-20 grains. It has been used externally as an escharotic to indolent ulcers. Besides resin and the usual constituents, it abounds in a peculiar principle called pedophylline, which belongs to the same group with salicine and popoline. The peculiar properties of the root are probably due to this principle, and to the resin.

Order, Cabombacea. (Watershield Family.)

Brasenia peltata, Ph. Abundant in ponds, frequently covering whole acres of their surface with its floating leaves. The jelly with which the under surface of the leaves is thickly coated, is a pure mucilage, similar to that of lichen; plant sub-astringent. (Raf.)

Order, Nelumbiaceae. (Nelumbo Family.)

Nelumbium luteum, Willd. (Water Chiniqupin—Waucoupin.) This magnificent aquatic grows in ponds and lakes, in most parts of the
State. It is remarkable for the size and fragrance of its flowers, and the dimensions of its large peltate leaves, which frequently exceed two feet in diameter. They have the property of repelling water, when thrown on their surface, giving to small portions a spheroidal form. The roots are said by Nuttall to resemble the sweet potato in taste, and are a favorite article of food among the Osage and other Western tribes of Indians. The nuts, which are about the size of chinqupins, resemble them in taste. The leaves are cooling, and form a good dressing for blistered surfaces. (Griff.)

Order, Nymphaeae: (Water Lily Family.)

Nymphaea odorata, Ait. (White Water Lily.) Leaves floating, roots large and fleshy. Used as a popular remedy in bowel complaints. They contain, according to Bigelow, tannin and gallic acid.

Nuphar lutea, Smith. (Yellow Water Lily.) Medical properties similar to Nymphaea, but weaker. The roots, rubbed or bruised with milk, are said to destroy cockroaches and crickets.

Order, Sarraceniaceae: (Pitcher Plants.)

Sarracenia flava, L. (Yellow flowered Side Saddle.) Leaves one to two feet long; half full of water and dead insects. According to Dr. Porcher, the root has long been used as a domestic remedy by the inhabitants of the lower portions of South Carolina. From his observations and experiments, it appears to be a stimulant and tonic, with a tendency to act on the brain, and is probably well suited to cases of dyspepsia, dependent on debility of the stomach. Prof. Shepherd found the root to contain, besides resin and other matters, an acid salt of lime, and a salt probably of an organic alkali. Grows in wet pine woods.

S. purpurea, L. (Purple flowered Side Saddle.) Tubers usually half full of water and dead insects. Properties probably similar to the above. Damp soil, Covington.

Order Papaveraceae: (Poppy Family.)

Papaver somniferum, L. (Poppy.) The opium bearing poppy is a native of the warmer parts of Asia; but is naturalized in almost all parts of the world, and might, perhaps, be brought to yield opium in this country in sufficient quantity to repay the labor of cultivation.

Argemone Mexicana, L. (Prickly Poppy.) The whole plant exudes an acrid, milky juice, which on exposure to the air becomes concrete like gamboge. Is found of service in chronic diseases of the skin.
In Brazil and India, the expressed oil of the seeds is regarded as a purgative not unlike castor oil, but more active, thirty drops being equal to an ounce of castor oil. It operates without griping.

Sanguinaria Canadensis, L. (Ruecgon, Blood root.) Grows in the North-west portion of the State. The whole plant is pervaded by an orange colored juice, most abundant in the root. Dr. Dana has shown that sanguinaria owes its medical properties to an alcaloid principle, which he has called sanguinarine. It is extremely acrid, and possesses the properties of an alkali. Sanguinaria has been advantageously administered in many diseases of the lungs, and has been recommended in rheumatism and diseases of the liver. The dose of the powdered root, as an emetic, is 10—20 grains; as a diaphoretic and expectorant 3—5. Externally, the decoction has been found useful as a wash for ill-conditioned ulcers. The powdered root is also an efficient escharotic.

Order Fumariaceae. (Fumitory Family.)

Corydalis aurea, Wild. Corydalis glauca, Ph. (Fumitory.) Diuretic and diaphoretic.

Order Cruciferae. (Mustard Family.)

This is a vast and very natural family of plants, all the species composing it being closely allied in structure and properties. They are all more or less acrid and pungent. In some of them this acrid principle is in union with a considerable quantity of mucilage, when they become useful articles of food. The acridity depends on a volatile oil, which is dissipated by heat. A very large number of our culinary vegetables and condiments are derived from this class, as all the varieties of Cabbage, the Turnip, Mustard, Horse Radish, Cress, etc. Several of our indigenous species are esteemed as salads, as Cardemine rotundifolia, M.; C. Virginica, L.; C. Ludoviciana, Hook; Scuebria pinatifida, D. C.; Lepidium Virginicum, L., etc. They are all valuable antiscorbutics.

As medical agents they are of little importance, though from the pungency of the volatile oil contained in some of them, they are frequently employed as external stimulants; and sometimes administered internally to excite the intestinal canal. (Grif.)

Order, Violaceae. (Violet Family.)

Viola pedata, L. Foot Violet. This species is remarkable for the size and beauty of its flowers, which are usually bright blue, in some varieties pale blue, and even white; one variety has the two lower
petals dark purple. The root has been employed as a demulcent and
eceptorant.

Viola odorata, L. (Fragrant Violet.) A native of Europe, but na-
turalized in some places in this country. It is cultivated in every gar-
den for the delightful odor of its flowers. The syrup prepared from this
species is demulcent and laxative, and is of great value to the chemist
in the detection of acids and alkalies. The root is emetic and cathartic,
in about the same doses as Ipecac, for which it has been proposed as a
substitute, but is less certain in its operation. It owes this property
to a principle called violine, closely allied to cinetine in composition and
action.

V. tricolor, L., and V. arvensis, Ell. (Heart’s-Ease) are said to be
possessed of efficacy in the treatment of cutaneous diseases, especially
crustea lactea.

V. palmata, L. A variable species; one variety with flowers of
bright purple, and fragrant.

This violet is very mucilaginous, and much used by the negroes in
their soups. In domestic practice the bruised leaves are employed as
an emollient application. (Ell.) Grows in shady woods.

V. primulafolia, L. Flowers white, fragrant.

V. laevigata, L. Flowers white. Grows in wet places, about
springs, etc.

Order, Hypericaceae. (St. Johnswort Family.)

A numerous family of herbs, or handsome shrubs, (with us) having
a resinsous juice, variously and capriciously dotted with glands, leaves
opposite entire, capriciously dotted with immersed, peliace, resinous
glands, and often (as also the sepals and petals) sprinkled with black
glandular dots or lines, Torr. and Gr.

Most of the plants of this order exhale, when bruised, a peculiar bal-
samic odor. The Indians frequently carry a handful of the Hypericin
Sarothra for days together, on account of the pleasant odor. All our
species of St. Johnswort possess medicinal properties in a greater or
less degree. Several of them were formerly employed as remedies for
intermittent fever, and a long array of other maladies, but they are at
present principally confined to domestic practice. Our genera are,
Ascyrium, St. Peterswort; Hypericum, St. Johnswort; and Elodea,
Marsh St. Johnswort.

Order, Portulaceae. (Purslane Family.)

Portulaca oleracea, L. Purslane; naturalized. A cooling diuretic,
used in scurvy and affections of the urinary organs. (Wood.)
Order, Malvaceae. (Mallow Family.)

Our indigenous plants of this large order are all herbaceous. Their general character is that of abounding in mucilage, and being destitute of any unwholesome properties.

Malva Caroliniana, L. (Guimaure.) Very common. From the great quantity of mucilage it contains, is used in bowel affections. It forms an excellent cataplasm in external inflammation.

M. papaver, Nutt.—(Poppy Mallow.) Remarkable for the size and beauty of its flowers. Properties, in a slight degree, those of the order.

Hibiscus incanus, L., and many others, are mucilaginous.

H. esculentus (Okra). Introduced from Africa. Cultivated and highly esteemed as a culinary vegetable. It abounds in mucilage, and may be employed medicinally in all cases requiring demulcents and emollients.

Gossypium album, H. (White-seed Cotton—Mexican Cotton.)

G. nigra, H. (Black-seed Cotton—Sea Island Cotton.) It is probable there are the only original species of this very important genus, the numerous varieties being the effect of cultivation. Dr. P. P. Poirchier (Transactions American Medical Association, 2, p. 721) remarks; "Much use is made of the roots of the cotton in this State, (South Carolina) in the treatment of asthma, a decoction being employed. It appears, moreover, to have a specific effect on the urinary organs. Dr. Ready informs us that his attention was first called to its emenagogue properties by an article in the New Orleans Medical Journal, some years since. He has since used it in suppression of the menses, but more particularly in many cases of flooding, with entire success. It seems to produce an active a contraction of the uterus, as ergot itself. Three ounces of the root are infused in a pint of boiling water, of which three or four ounces are taken internally every fifteen minutes." The cotton-wool, when carded, or what is better, fresh from the receiving-room, forms an excellent application to burns and scalds, and has been recommended as a dressing to blisters, when it is wished to dry them rapidly.

Order Tiliaceae. (Linden Family.)

Tilia Americana, L. (Linden, Bass-wood.) The inner bark of this tree affords a rich mucilage on maceration in cold water, which forms a soothing application to irritable surfaces. (Williams.)

Order Meliaceae. (Melia Family.)

Melia azedarach, L. (China Tree.) This beautiful shade tree,
common throughout the Southern States, is one of our most valuable anthelmintics. It is also of service in those infantile remittents which resemble vermicose, and which frequently occur without the presence of worms. A decoction is made by boiling four ounces of the fresh bark of the root in a quart of water, to a pint; of this a tablespoonful is to be given every two or three hours, till it affects the stomach or bowels; it should be followed by a brisk cathartic.

Order, Oxalidaceae. (Wood Sorrel Family.)

Oxalis violacea, L.; O. stricta, L.; O. corniculata, L.—(Wood Sorrel.) All our species of sorrel possess an agreeable acid, dependent on the quantity of binoxalate of petassa they contain. Used to form a cooling drink in febrile complaints.

Order, Balsaminaceae. (Balsam Family.)

"Impatiens fulva, Nutt. (Touchme-not.) The whole plant is acrid, and is used as a cataplasm." Taken internally it acts as an anodyne, cathartic and diuretic. (U. S. Disp.) Flowers used in dying yellow.

T. Balsamina (Touchme-not.) of the garden, an exotic, resembles the last in its properties.

Order, Zanthoxyllaceae. (Prickly Ash Family.)

Zanthoxylum Carolinianum, L. (Prickly Ash.) Bark aromatic and pungent, a powerful stomachic and diaphoretic; used in chronic rheumatism; dose, in powder, 10—20 grains.

Ptelea trifoliata, L. (Three-leaved Ptelea.) A large shrub, said by Scheepf to be anthelmintic, for which purpose the leaves and young shoots are used. A strong infusion. The fruit is aromatic and bitter, and is stated to be a good substitute for hops. (Griff. Med.-Bot.)

Order, Anacardiaceae. (Cashew Family.)

Trees or shrubs having a resinous, gummy, or milky caustic juice, which in some of them turns black, and is used for varnishes.

Rhus radicans, L. (Poison Vine.) Grows in fertile soil, climbing trees, etc.

R. toxicodendron, L. (Poison Oak.) Erect, one foot high, grows in dry, sandy soil.

These species, possessing similar properties, were known to the Indians both as poisons and medical agents. The poison oak has been employed in paralysis, in which it appears to act like mix vomica, but not with equal power.
R. vermix, L. Grows about springs, etc. Poisonous properties exceedingly active.

R. glabra, L. R. typhina, L. R. copallina, L. (Sumach.) The crimson berries of the three last named species, when mature, are covered with an acid efflorescence, and have a sour, astringent taste, which they readily impart to cold water, forming an agreeable drink in febrile complaints. The bark of the root has been highly recommended as a wash in salivation; the leaves are employed in tanning morocco leather, etc. They are smoked by the Indians, either alone or mixed with tobacco.

Order Aceraceae. (Maple Family.)

Acer saccharinum, L. (Sugar Maple.) Rubrum, L. (Red Maple.) Drummondii, Hook and Arn. (Swamp Maple.) All yield sugar.

Negundo aceroides, Ménch. (Box Elder.) Yields sugar.

Order. Hippocastanaceae. (Horse Chestnut Family.)

Æsculus Pavia, L. (Buckeye.) A handsome flowering shrub, sometimes attaining the size of a small tree. The bark, among other ingredients, contains gallic acid and tannin, and imparts its properties to boiling water. It has been employed as a substitute for Peruvian bark, in the cure of intermittent fever. The fruit yields the finest starch, esteemed for its pure and durable whiteness; a strong paste may be made of it, which is avoided by insects; the roots are used for washing woolens, silks, etc.

Order Sapindaceae. (Soap-berry Family.)

Sapindus marginatus, Willd. (Soap-berry tree.) Fruit saponaceous, said to be rather corrosive.

Cardiospermum Halicacabum, L. (Heart-seed, Bladdernut.) The root is aperient. (Ainslie.)

Order, Celastraceae. (Spindletree Family.)

Euonymus atropurpureus, Jay. (Burning bush.) A shrub of rather striking appearance, especially in winter, from the scarlet color of the fruit, and inverted capsules, whence the name of Burning bush. Cathartic and diuretic; requires investigation.

Order, Rhamnaceae. (Buckthorn Family.)

Berchemia volubilis, D. C. (Sour Jack.) A climbing shrub, in moist woods; root used in cathartic diseases; said to be antisyphilitic. (Lind.)
Rhamnus Carolinianus, Walt. A shrub or small tree. Properties probably similar to those of R. catharticus. Vide Wood and Bach's Disp.

Ceanothus—Americanus, L. (Red Root.) A small shrub, very common; the bark of the root imparts a red color to water; astringent. Used advantageously in diarrheoa of children.

Order, Vitaceae. (Vine Family.)

Vitis labrusca, L. (Fox Grape.) V. blanda, Raf. (Raisin de Cote—Pine-woods Grape.) V. aestivalis, M. (Summer Grape.) V. cordifolia, M. (Winter-Grape.) V. rotundifolia, M. (Muscadine—Scuppernong.) The cultivated varieties of several of our indigenous species are much esteemed as table grapes, and for making wine. Besides their use as a part of diet, grapes have been prescribed medicinally; they are antiseptic and cooling, and when partaken of freely are somewhat diuretic and laxative.

Wine is the most important product of the vine. Grape sugar differs from every other kind of sugar in containing a less quantity of carbon. The acid of the grape is chiefly the tartaric; malic acid, however, is contained in them.

Order, Polygonaceae. (Milkwort Family.)

Polygonum pubescens, Muñl. Covington. P. polygama, Walt. P. purpurea, L. P. sanguinea, T. and G. P. cruciata, L. P. lutea, L. P. Nana, D. C. P. Cymosa, Walt. P. grandiflora, T. and G. P. incarnata, Muñl. P. verticillata. P. amigua, Nutt. P. leptocaulis, T. and G. These are, for the most part, small annual plants, the two first only being perennial; they all possess the properties of the P. senega, and may be substituted for it. The fresh root has a feeble but peculiar odor, and a bitter, slightly acid taste. It is a stimulant of a very searching nature; hence the impropriety of employing it in inflammatory diseases, as croup, pleurisy, etc., before the acute stage has been subdued.

Order, Leguminosae. (Pulse Family.)

This extensive family is composed of trees, shrubs and herbs.

Erythrina herbacea, L. (Coral Flower.) Roots sudorific, flowers pectoral; very ornamental. Raf.

Apios tuberosa, Meach. (Indian Potatoe.) Climbing; flowers in crowded racemes, sweet scented, roots tuberous, farinaceous, and edible. In wet places.

Baptisia lanceolata, Ell.; B. leucophila, Nutt.; B. leucantha, T. and G.;
B. australis, R. Br. (Wild Indigo.) The wild indigo has been used with benefit, as an external application, in mercurial sore mouth; also in ulcer and gangrenous ulcers, correcting the vitiated discharges, and checking the progress of mortification.

Indigofera tinctoria, L. (Indigo.) Formerly cultivated in parts of this State, for the well known product Indigo, the process of preparing which was known to the aborigines, before the discovery. Employed as an astringent in innumerable discharges of the lochia, and more recently in spasmodic diseases, especially epilepsy, but it appears, in reality, to be possessed of very little power.

Indigofera Caroliniana, Walt. (Wild Indigo.) A beautiful perennial species, growing in dry soil. Properties similar to the last.

Rabinia Pseudoacacia, (Black Locust.) The flowers possess antispasmodic properties, and make an agreeable syrup. The bark of the root is sweetish; both cathartic and emetic.

Tephrosia Virginica, Pers. (Turkey Pea.) The roots were used by the Indians as a vermifuge, before the settlement of the country by the Whites, and are a popular remedy at the present time. (Griff.)

T. onobrychoides, Nutt.; T. hispida, Ph.; T. spicata, T. and G.

These are all deserving attention.

Cassia Marilandica, L. (American Senna.) A rather showy plant, growing in fertile soil. An active and certain cathartic, but little if at all inferior to the foreign senna. The leaves should be gathered when the fruit is nearly ripe.


Order, Rosaceae. [Rose Family.]

The plants of this order are herbaceous or shrubby; none of them bear poisonous fruits. "The roses are astringent, the spireae emetic, and the amygdale sedative." [Carson.]

Cerasus serratina, D. C. [Wild Cherry.] The wild cherry frequently grows to the size of a large tree; the wood is valuable; the fruit edible; the bark yields gum; and the leaves, bark and kernels yield tannin and amygdalin. [Carson.] It is one of our most valuable indigenous remedies, uniting, with a tonic power, the property of calming, nervous excitability. It is admirably adapted to the treatment of diseases in which a delirious condition of the stomach or of the system is united with general or local irritation. It may be used in infusion or in powder. Dose of the latter, 3 ss—5 i. [Wood.]
C. Virginiana, L. [Wild Cherry.] Properties similar in all respects to the last.

C. Caroliniana, M. [Laurier Amand.] Probably the most efficient of our species of Cerasus. The leaves are poisonous, frequently destroying cattle that feed upon them.

Gillenia stipulacea, Nutt. [Indian Physic.] The root is a mild and efficient emetic. Dose, in powder, 20—30 grs.

Geum Virginicum, L. Tonic and astringent; used in leucorrhoea and in diarrhoea.

Agrimonia Eupatoria, L. [Agrimony.] Has a weak but agreeable aromatic odor, is a mild astringent and tonic; said to have been employed by the Indians and Canadians as a febrifuge; useful in diarrhoea, etc., and in passive hemorrhage.

A. parviflora, Ait. Properties similar to the last.


Fragaria Virginiana, Ehr. [Strawberry.] Strawberries are refrigerant, diaphoretic, pectoral and astringent. They have been used in consumption, gout, scurvy and gravel. The root is bitter, astringent and tonic; beneficial in hemorrhages, etc.

Rubus villosus, Ait. [Blackberry.] R. trivialis, M. [Low-bush Blackberry.] R. hispidus, L. [Dewberry.] All perennial; possess the same properties.

Blackberry root is an efficient astringent, though not of great power, and has been found exceedingly useful in bowel complaints, especially in the cholera of children. [Grif.] It should be given in decoction; an ounce of the root to a pint of water, of which the dose for a child is two or three tea spoonfuls, and for an adult a wine glassful.

The fruit is relished, and 'agrees well with most persons'; is found beneficial in dysentery, especially in the form of jam or syrup. It is exceedingly grateful to the patient, and often relieves the painful tenesmus so constantly an attendant of the complaint. [Grif.]

Order, Lythraceae. [Loosestrife Family.]

Lythum alatum, Ph.; L. lanceolatum, Ell. (Slender Loosestrife.) Elegant perennial plants, with quadrangular stems and blue flowers, in long terminal spikes. Demulcent and astringent.

Order, Onagraceae. [Evening Primrose Family.]

Gnaphalium biennis, L. [Evening Primrose.] mucilaginous and
slightly acrid. Employed in decoction with benefit, by Dr. Griffith, in obstinate cutaneous complaints.

Order, Cactaceae. [Cactus Family.]

Opuntia vulgaris, Nutt. [Prickly Pear.] Young leaves eaten by negroes like okra; split leaves; good topical emollient for acute rheumatism; baked for chronic ulcers and wounds. The juice and gum used for the gravel. [Raf.]

Order, Passifloraceae. [Passion Flower Family.]

Passiflora incarnata, L. [May Apple.] Fruit edible, of an agreeable acid taste.

P. lutea, L. Fruit small; dark purple. Several species of this genus are employed in medicine, and these appear worthy of investigation.

Order, Cucurbitaceae. [Gourd Family.]

Bryonia Bayklisii, T. and G. Stem twining over bushes, etc. Fruit half an inch long; bright crimson; root tuberose. Several species of Bryony possess active medicinal properties.

Sicyos angulata, L. [Prickly Cucumber.] Roots and seeds bitter, purgative and diuretic. [Raf.]

Melothria pendula, L. [Creeping Cucumber.] Stem slender; climbing; fruit the size of a pea; black when ripe. Used in the West Indies as a pickle, when green. It is extremely drastic when mature; half a one being a dose for an adult.

Order, Saxifragaceae. [Saxifrage Family.]

Huchera Americana, L. [Alum Root.] Root powerfully astringent; was in use among the aborigines as a styptic, and an application to ulcers; may be used wherever an astringent is indicated.

Itea Virginica, L. A shrub, bearing racemes of beautiful white flowers. Employed as a domestic remedy for intermitents; it has also been used in chorea.

Hydrangea arborescens, L. [Tree Hydrangea.] H. Quercifolia, Bartram, [Oak-leaved Hydrangea.] Dr. Griffith found the leaves tonic, sialagogue, cathartic, and diuretic. [Raf.]

Decumaria barbara, L. [Sugar Vine.] A climbing shrub, frequently ascending tall trees, adhering by means of radicles. The sap, which in early spring is yielded abundantly from incisions, contains sugar in considerable quantity.
Hamamelis Virginiana; L. [Witch Hazel.] A large shrub remarkable for flowering late in autumn, and maturing the fruit of the previous year, at the same season. The bark has been used as an external application in painful affections, tumors, etc., in the form of poultice and decoction; also in painful hemorrhoidal affections.

*Order Umbellifera.* [Parsley Family.]

The properties of this vast and important tribe of plants differ widely, according to the part of the plant considered; whether the vegetation or the fructification. The character of the former is generally suspicious, and often poisonous in a high degree, as the Hemlock, Fool’s Parsley, etc. Nevertheless, the stems of the Celery, especially when etiolated and the roots of the Carrot and Parsnip, are wholesome articles of food. The fruit, commonly called the seed, is in no case dangerous, and is generally a warm and agreeable aromatic.

Sanicula Marilandica, L. [Sanicle.] Useful in leucorrea, gonorrhea, and dysentery. [Raf.]

Eryngium aquaticum, L. E. Virginicum, L. (Button Snakeroot.) These species possess similar properties. The root has a bitter, pungent, aromatic taste, provoking, when chewed, a copious flow of saliva. Diaphoretic and expectorant, and in large doses occasionally emetic. Used by some physicians as a substitute for senega. [Bigelow.]

Cicuta maculata, L. [Water Hemlock.] Grows in wet places; one of the most poisonous of our indigenous plants. The whole plant in the fresh state is poisonous, but the leaves and stem become innocuous on drying. The root, however, is the most active, and the cortical portion contains a viscid, yellow juice. When taken in any quantity, the Cicuta causes all the symptoms of the accronarctics. It has been used as a sedative to alleviate pain in schirrus and cancer.

Thaspium cordatum, Nutt. Vulnerary, antisyphilitic, sudorific; antidote for rattlesnakes. [Raf.]

*Order Araliaceae.* [Spikenard Family.]

Aralia spinosa, L. [Angelica Tree, Prickly Elder.] A large shrub, growing in fertile woods. The inner bark is yellowish, of a slightly aromatic odor, and bitter, astringent taste. It was in use among the Indians for dropsy, cholic, syphilis, and chronic rheumatism; they gave it in decoction. It is stimulant and diaphoretic, and in the recent state, emetic and cathartic, used in chronic rheumatism and in cutaneous eruptions. A spirituous or vinous tincture of the berries, said to be
efficient in relieving rheumatic pains. The bark is most commonly administered in decoction.

**Order Cornaceae.** [Dogwood Family.]

*Corpus Florida, L.* [Dogwood.] The bark is tonic, astringent and somewhat stimulant, and is probably the best native substitute for the cinchona.

*C. Paniculata, Lam.* C. Strica, Lam. C. Sericea, L. [Swamp Dogwood.] These possess similar properties to the C. Florida, and are frequently substituted for it.

**DIVISION II. MONOPETALOUS EXOGENOUS PLANTS.**

**Order, Caprifoliaceae.** [Honeysuckle Family.]

*Symphoricarpus vul. M.* [Indian Currant.] A small, elegant shrub, with dark red persistent berries. The root is tonic, astringent, and in small doses an active febrifuge; used for agues in Virginia; for syphilis by the western tribes of Indians. [Raf.]

*Lonicera sempervirens, Ait.* [Coral Honeysuckle.] A beautiful evergreen, climbing shrub, flowering in April, and in cultivation throughout the summer; leaves and flowers bitterish, mucilaginous and dective. A syrup used for sore throat, irritation of the lungs, etc. [Raf.]

*L. grata, Ait.* [Honeysuckle.] Flowers fragrant; medical properties similar to the last.

*Sambucus Canadensis, L.* [Elder.] The bark of the root is an active hydrogogue cathartic, and in large doses emetic; the flowers are sudorific; the juice of the berries, diluted with water, forms an agreeable laxative drink, in rheumatism, etc.

*Viburnum-pennificium, L.* [Black Haw.] Fruit sweetish, edible; bark astringent, tonic.

*V. acerifolium, L.* V. dentatum, L., and var. V. obvatum, T. and G. Bark of many species smoked like tobacco by the Western tribes; used by the Indians and Shakers as a diuretic. [Raf.]


**Order Rubiaceae.** [Madder Family.]

A genus, with us, of herbaceous plants, with square stems and verticilate leaves.
Gallium aperine, L. [Bedstraw.] Diuretic, aperient and antiscorbutic. [Porcher.]
G. asprellum, M. [Rough Bedstraw.] Diuretic.
G. uniflorum, M. [One flowered Bedstraw.] The root contains a red coloring matter.
G. cirsaeum, M. [Wild Liquorice.] Demulcent, expectorant and diuretic. The roots taste like liquorice. [Riddell.]

Sub-order, Cinchonaceae. [Cinchona Family.]
Cephalanthus occidentalis, L. [Button-bush.] A shrub 2.15 feet high; grows on the margins of ponds, etc.; very common. Bark of the root in decoction used as a domestic remedy in intermittent. Beneficial in obstinate coughs. It was in use among the aborigines.
Mitchella repens, L. [Partridge-berry.] A beautiful little prostrate evergreen plant, in shady woods, bearing fragrant white flowers, in pairs, and scarlet berries, which it often retains throughout the winter. Diuretic.

Sipetalia Marianaica, L. [Carolina Pinkroot.] Pinkroot is a certain and powerful anthelmintic; it possesses narcotic, and to some extent, cathartic properties. Pinkroot deteriorates rapidly on keeping, and should be used fresh; fortunately, this may generally be done, as the plant grows abundantly throughout the State. The infusion is the best form of administration.

Order, Compositae. [Composite Family.]
This is one of the most natural and extensive orders of the vegetable kingdom, consisting of one tenth of the known plants. It is readily known by the flowers being collected into heads, and the stamens united into a tube. In proportion to the vast number of species, the useful ones are few. Their general characteristics are bitterness and astringency, but their properties, often, vary widely.

Vernonia navrunculus, Willd.; [Iron Weed] and several other species; all possessing similar properties; a bitter, combined with a resinous principle; a spirituous tincture is made of the root and used for fevers, in Kentucky. [Raf.] Used against poisons, [Schöpf] used by the negroes of South Carolina in snake bite.

Elephantopus Carolina, Willd. [Elephant's Foot.] Fertile soil.
E. tomentosa, L. Dry soil.
E. scaber, L. Flowers sept. Wet pine woods; properties very similar to those of vernonia. A decoction of the leaves and roots of E. scaber is given on the Malabar coast, in cases of dysuria [Ainslie]; and in Brazil, according to Martius, the root is used in intermittent fevers.

The root of E. tomentosa is an Indian remedy for snake bite, and has been employed in popular practice with apparent benefit.


Several of these species are elegant plants; the heads of purple flowers are arranged on the simple stem, in long spikes, or racemes. The root is a naked tuber, encased with a terebinthinaceous substance; it has an acid, bitterish, pungent taste, and an aromatic odor. The active qualities are wholly given out to alcohol. The Indians used the roots as a diuretic, stimulant, carminative and diaphoretic. [Riddell.] The plants of this genus merit investigation at the hands of physicians.

L. odoratissima, M. [Vanilla leaf.] The leaves, when bruised, or wilted, exhale a strong odor of vanilla, which, in a dry state, they retain for many years. The leaves are frequently brought to market in New Orleans, in a fresh state, by the Indians.

Eupatorium perfoliatum, L. [Boneset.] This is one of the most valuable articles of our indigenous Materia Medica, being an efficacious remedy in the treatment of diseases common in this country. It was in use among the Chocataw and other Southern Indians, for the cure of intermittent fevers. From them the early settlers derived a knowledge of its virtues.

The remedial properties of Boneset are various; it is tonic, diaphoretic, emetic, and in large doses aperient; as a tonic, it is well suited to cases of dyspepsia, and want of tone in the system, requiring the use of simple bitters; for this purpose the infusion is the best form of exhibition. In various forms of fever, it is of considerable efficacy; but in intermittents, its diaphoretic properties are of the greatest force; given in warm infusion, before the accession of the chill, it rarely fails to prevent the paroxysm. In catarrh, its remedial powers are valuable. As an emetic it is equal, but in no respects superior to Camomile. As a cathartic it has been employed in bilious colic, accompanied with obstinate constipation, in the dose of a tea spoonful of the powder every half hour until a cathartic effect is produced.

More than a dozen other species of Eupatorium are indigenous to the
State, most of which, no doubt, possess similar properties to the above.

Eupatorium purpureum, L. [Gravel-root.] This is a large, coarse, weed-like plant, 10-12 feet high, with a purple, hollow stem, and large leaves, disposed in whirled. Diuretic; used in diseases of the kidneys and bladder. Dr. Eberlee asserts that catarrhal-fevers are cured by drinking a weak infusion of the leaves, on going to bed.

Conoclinium Cellestimum, D. C. Flowers blue, Habit, and probably medical properties similar to Boneset, with which it was formerly classed.

Aster. [Starwort.] A numerous genus of rather ornamental plants, chiefly interesting on account of their flowering late in autumn, when most other flowers have disappeared. Several of them, as A. cordifolius, A. punicens, etc., which have aromatic roots, are said to be anti-spasmodic.

Erigeron Canadensis, L. [Canada Fleebane, Horseweed.] This species of erigeron has an agreeable odor, and bitterish, acrid, somewhat astringent taste. Among its constituents, according to Dr. De Puy, are bitter-extractive, tannic and gallic acid, and a volatile oil. Diuretic tonic, and astringent. It has been found useful in dropsical complaints and in diarrhea. U. S. Disp.

E. divaricatus, M. A small, branching species, belonging to the same subdivision of the genus as the last; and probably possesses similar properties.

E. annuum, Pers. E. Bellidifolium, Muhl. E. quercifolium, E. venosum, T. and G.E. tenue, T. & G. The five last named species of Fleebane are, no doubt, identical in their medical properties, and may, therefore, be employed indifferently, one for another. When bruised they have a peculiar, not unpleasant smell; their taste is bitter and astringent. The most striking property of these plants is their diuretic, for which they have been long employed in domestic practice, and have been found efficacious in the hands of regular practitioners. They have been employed in diseases of the bladder and kidneys, in dropsy, especially of children; also in difficulty of urinating. They agree well with the stomach, even when squills and digitalis are not tolerated. They are diaphoretic and emenagogue, for which purpose they were employed by the Indians. Two or three drops of the oil dissolved in alcohol, have suddenly arrested hemorrhage. In chronic diarrhea also it is beneficial. [Raf.]

Solidago. [Golden-rod.] An extensive genus of herbaceous, pe
rnenial plants. Flowers yellow, in terminal, axillary and frequently recurved racemes. The general character is mild astrin gent, combined in one or two species, with some stimulating qualities, owing to the presence of an essential oil. [Griff.]

Solidage, odorata, Ait. [Sweet-scented Golden-rod.] Grows abundantly in pine woods; readily distinguished from all our other species of golden-rod,—about thirty in number,—by its very agreeable odor, resembling aniseed; this is owing to the presence of an essential oil. The oil is used to relieve nausea and vomiting, to allay pain from flatulence, and also to correct the disagreeable taste of medicines, which it is said effectually to do, even that of castor oil and laudanum. The leaves and flowers are used in some portions of the country as a substitute for tea.

S. semieverneaus, L. [Evergreen Golden-rod.] Very efficacious in the cure of wounds. [Mer. and De Lens]

Baccharis halimifolia, L. A large evergreen shrub, common near the sea and lake shore; less so in the interior of the State; readily distinguished by its very long white beard (papus). In general use in South Carolina as a palliative in consumption and cough. It is slightly mucilaginous; a strong decoction of the root may be employed. The bark is said to exude a gum so much resembling honey as to attract bees. [Porcher.]

B. glomerifolia, Pers. Properties similar to the last.

Ecliptica erecta, L. Leaves dye the hair black. [Raf.]

Siphium laciniatum, L. [Turpentine Sunflower.] S. seaberinum. S. astericum, L. These all exude a fine fragrant and bitterish gum, resembling Frankincense; white or amber colored; chewed by Indians to sweeten the breath and clean the teeth. [Raf.]

Parthenium integrifolium, L. The root is regarded by some as a most valuable diuretic in ischuria. [Riddell.]

Iva frutescens, L. [Bastard, Jesuits’ Bark.] A shrub, growing near the sea and lake shore; also at the salines, parish of Claiborne. Bark, with the odor of Elderflowers, tonic; the leaves may be pickled. [Raf.]

Ambrosia artimisiifolia, L. [Ragweed.] Emollient and antiseptic. It has been recently employed with success as a popular remedy for piles.


A plant has been noticed by Dr. Robertson, (American Journal Med.
Science, XII. 382) which appears to be A. trifida, as highly beneficial in arresting excessive salivation. [Grif.]

-Xanthium strumarium, L. [Cocklebur.] Subacid, astringent and diaphoretic; used in scrofula, herpes and erysipelas. [Raf.]

-Echinacea purpurea, Mech. [Red Sunflower.] Root thick, very pungent to the taste. Used in syphilis by the Mandans. [Raf.]

-E. angustifolia, Nutt. [Black Sampson.]

-Bidens chrysanthemoides, M. [Spanish-needle.] Three or four other species. The seeds, boiled in water and strained, mixed with honey, form a most excellent expectorant, in whooping cough and other catarrhal affections. [Williams.]

-Verbésina Virginica, L. [Virginian Crownbeard.] A valuable sudorific and depurative of the Indian tribes. Root used in decoction. [Raf.]

-Helenium autumnale, L. [Sneéze-weed.] Grows in the Western prairies and some other localities in this State. It has a bitter, slightly pungent taste; tonic and diaphoretic; also a powerful erthine; the entire plant, in powder, possesses this property, but the flowers of the disk possess it in the highest degree.


-H. tenufolium, Nutt. Grows on Red River; abundant in the commons of Alexandria. The two last possess the same properties as H. autumnale.

-Leptopoda brachypoda, T. and G. L. Hélenium Perennial; plants resembling in habit and properties the genus Hélenium.

-Matara cotula, D. C. [May-weed, Dog Fennel.] Naturalized, in places. This plant has a strong and unpleasant smell, and a bitter, acrid and nauseous taste. It is tonic, diaphoretic and emetic, closely resembling chamomile in its effects, but is more unpleasant to the taste. Externally it is an efficient and safe vesicant. According to Dr. Ashly, bruised and applied in the form of poultice, it vesicates promptly, and the blisters heat readily.

-Guaphalium polycephalum. [Life-everlasting.] Possesses a slight aromatic odor, and slightly bitter taste; used as a domestic remedy in the form of tea, in diseases of the chest and bowels, and in hemorrhagic affections. Externally it is applied in the way of fomentation, in bruises and languid tumors.

-G. purpureum, L. G. uliginosum, M. G. Plantagineum, Ell. All these possess similar properties to G. polycephalum, and may be sub.
stituted for it in most cases. The Gypsophila are also used against negro poisoning and rattlesnake bites. Indians, for a trifle allow themselves to be bitten, and cure themselves at once. [Raf.]

Cacalia tuberosa, Nutt. C. ovata, Ell. C. lanceolata. [Wild Car-
oway.] Leaves glaucus; all, more or less, emollient, like mallow. [Raf.]

Senecie hieracifolia, M. [Fire-weed.] A large homely weed, in newly cleared ground. The bruised herb is sometimes used externally, to painful swellings and ulcers.

S. aureus, L. [Ragwort.] It is said by Schwerp to have been a favorite remedy with the Indians. The juice of the plant in honey, or the seeds in substance, are employed. [Porchet.]

Lactuca elongata, Muhl. [Wild Lettuce.] Said to act as an anodyne, and to produce a discharge by the kidneys and the skin, being similar in its effects to L. virosa of Europe.

Nabalus albus, Hook. [Rattlesnake-root.] Used in dysentery and to cure snake bites; in the last case it is applied in the form of poultice. [Raf.]

N. altissimus, Hook. [Gall of the Earth.] The root is excessively bitter. Used as a tonic in domestic practice, in South Carolina. [Porchet.]

Order, Lobeliaceae. [Lobelia Family.]

The plants of this order with us are all herbaceous, yielding a milky, acrid juice, and are all dangerous plants, belonging to the toxic-narcotic class of poisons.

Lobelia inflata, L. (Lobelia.) This is an unsightly weed-like plant, growing in most parts of the United States. It has an unpleasant odor, and an acrid, nauseous taste. Dr. U. Proctor, (American Jour. Phar.) found it to contain a peculiar principle, lobeline, lobelic acid, a fixed oil, resin, etc. Lobeline is a principle analogous to nicotine; it is semi fluid, of a light yellow color, and less specific gravity than water. (Grif.) Lobelia imparts its active principles both to water and alcohol; was known to the aborigines, and employed by them both in medicine and the preparation for their great ceremonies. In small doses lobelia acts as a diaphoretic and expectorant; and in large doses as a powerful and even dangerous emetic; whilst in still larger quantities its effects are those of an active toxic-narcotic poison.

L. cardinalis, L. (Cardinal Flower.) A fine showy plant, with bright scarlet flowers, growing in wet, shady places. Properties similar to the L. inflata, but probably less energetic.
Dr. Riddell's Microscopic Observations.

L. syphilitia, L. Flowers, as in most of our species, blue. This plant was in high repute among the Indians as a remedy for syphilis, and at one time employed by physicians, but subsequent experience did not confirm the statements in its favor, and it is at present neglected. It is, however, an article of some activity, and might perhaps be found beneficial in the same kind of cases in which L. inflata is found useful. "Grows in Louisiana." (Riddell.)

The following native species also possess similar properties to the L. inflata, and some of them are supposed to possess greater diaphoretic and diuretic powers than that species:

L. pubulata, M., resembles the last,
L. glandulosa, Walt., L. paludosa, Nutt., L. glabella, L., Claytonii, L.,

[To be continued.]

SELECTED ITEMS OF MICROSCOPIC OBSERVATION.

Being an explanation of eight Lithographic Plates relating to Animal cells, the origin of capillary vessels, cause of the circulation of blood in animals, swarming in vegetable cells, microscopic pathology and natural history.

By L. E. E. S. D.


(Continued from the July Number of this Journal.)

TAB. XV.

HISTOLOGY.

[1000 diameters, No. 143 excepted.]

Cellular structure of the tadpole.

143. Frog spawn; ovum found on the surface of a puddle of rain water, July 3d, presumed to be of the Hyla arborea, Linn. Natural size, and appearance. As is well known, it consists of a black central globule, surrounded by a gelatinous envelope. The black globule detached, broken and examined over an inverted microscope with Spencer's best objective, presented among many things worthy of note, the following:

144, 145. Cells containing nuclei, nucleoli, etc.

146. Nucleoli, with its contents rendered visible by adding salt and vinegar

147. Free cells, probably the same as the nuclei of Nos. 144, 145.

148. Innumerable small black bodies, occurring in great abundance in some of the cells, manifesting incessant and active molecular movements.

149. A cell, showing within it, exterior to the free nuclei, multitudes of the black
THE NEW-ORLEANS
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

NOVEMBER, 1852.

Part First.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

I.—REPORT ON THE MEDICAL BOTANY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.
BY JOSIAH HALE, M.D.

(Concluded.)

Order, Ericaceae: The Heath Family.

Andromeda arborea, L. (Sowerwood, Sorrell Tree.) A rather small tree, bearing panicles of small, urn-shaped flowers; the leaves and wood are a fine agreeable acid, cooling and refreshing. (Raf.)

Kalmia hirsuta, L. Grows in Louisiana. (Riddell.) The leaves are used by the negroes and poor white people of South Carolina, for itch, and the mange in dogs; a strong decoction is applied to the eruption. (Porcher.)

Azalia nudiflora, L. (Coral Honeysuckle.) A handsome shrub, common along streams; flowers in February. Cotter says the blossoms are made into fragrant conserves at the North. (Raf.)

Vaccinium arboreum, Marshall. (Farcle-berry.) A large shrub; fruit astringent, but well flavored, frequently remaining on the tree through the winter. Bark of the root astringent; used, like the berries, in diarrhoea and dysentery.
V. frondosum, L. (Huckle-berry) and several other species; fruit useful in diarrhoea, scurvy, etc. Leaves astringent; a tea used for sore mouth. (Raf.)

Cyrella racemiflora, Walt. A large shrub, growing around ponds, Covington. The outer bark of the elder shrubs, near the ground, is extremely light and friable, and absorbs moisture with so much avidity, that it may be used with advantage instead of agaric and similar styptics. When rubbed between the hands, it excites a sensation similar to that produced after immersing the hands in a strong astringent fluid. It forms a serviceable application to wounds or ulcers, when the indication is to cicatrize them. (Ell.)

Monotropa uniflora, Ell. (Indian Pipe.) Plant white, turning black on drying. Used by the Indians and herbalists. Juice mixed with water deemed a specific for sore eyes. (Raf.)

Order, Aquifoliaceae. Holly Family.

Ilex opaca, Ait. (Holly.) Properties similar to those of I. aquifolium of Europe. Diaphoretic, emetic and cathartic. (Grif. Medical Bot.)

I. vomitoria, Ait. A handsome shrub, like most of the genus, with shining evergreen leaves, and persistent scarlet berries. The Indians considered it a holy plant. The leaves, steeped and boiled in water, form the "Black Drink" of the Southern tribes; they employed it in their councils to purge their bodies of all impurities. In small doses it acts as a diuretic; in larger quantities, it produces copious discharges from the stomach and bowels.

I. prinoides, Ell. (Winter-berry.) The bark is astrigent and tonic.

Prinos ambiguo, Ell. P. lavigata, P. verticillatus, L. (Winter-berry.) Bark tonic and astringent; used with advantage in diarrhoea, and as a corroborant in dropsy, etc.

Order, Ebenaceae. Ebony Family.

Diospyrus Virginiana, L. (Persimmon.) The fruit, in this climate, is large and delicious; a good beer is made of it. The bark is tonic and powerfully astringent, advantageously used in bowel complaints, and as a gargle in ulcerated sore throat. The unripe fruit has been highly recommended by Dr. Malacca (American Journal Med. Science, October, 1842) as an astringent, in the form of infusion, syrup and tincture, in various forms of bowel disease, and in hoarseness. (Grif.)
Dr. Hale on the Medical Botany of Louisiana.

Styrax grandifolium, Ait. S. glabrum, Ell. S. pulverulentum, M. All abound in fragrant juice; this, in two foreign species, when in an inspissated state, is officinal, under the name of Storax and Benzoin. (Grif.)

Hopea tinctoria, L. Hr. (Sweetleaf) A rather small evergreen tree. The root is bitter and aromatic, and is esteemed as a valuable stomachic. The leaves have a sweetish taste; they are used for dyeing woolens and silks of a yellow color.

Order, Sapotaceae. Sapodilla Family.

Bumelia lanuginosa, M./lyciodes, Ell. The bark is austere, said to be useful in bowel complaints; fruit black and unpleasant to the taste.

Order, Primulaceae. Primrose Family.

The plants of this order are rather beautiful objects of culture than valuable articles of the Materia Medica.

Samohus florabundus, Kunth. (Water Pimpernel) Said to be antiscorbutic, aperient and vulnerary.

Lysimachia ciliata, L. x Carpenterii, Riddell. (Loose-strife) Subastringent.

Dodecatheon integrifolium, Nutt. Fragrant.

Order, Plantaginaceae. Plantain Family.

Plantago major, L. (Plantain.) This plant is now believed to possess but feeble powers, and consequently is rarely given internally. As an external application it has been recommended in ulcers of various kinds, and in indolent scrofulous tumors. (U.S. Disp.)

Order, Orobancheaeae. Broom-rape Family.

Herbs destitute of green foliage.

Epiphegus Virginiana, Bart. (Beech-drop.) Bitter, astringent. The powdered root acts as an escharotic in inveterate ulcers. Supposed to be especially efficacious in those of a cancerous character.

Order, Bignoniaceae. Bignonia Family.

Tecoma radicans, Juss. (Trumpet Flower.) A shrubby vine. Leaves sweetish, aromatic, depurative. Used with Stillingia for yaws and to cleanse the blood.

Bignonia capreolata, L. (Cross Vine.) The root and vine, in infusion, answer the purpose of Sarsaparilla. (Porch.)

Catalpa cordifolia, Ell. (Catalpa.) The bark is said to be vermi-
fuge. A decoction of the pods has been recommended in pectoral complaints, and the dried seeds, smoked like tobacco, have been found useful in asthma. The leaves are emollient and somewhat anodyne, and have proved beneficial in local pains, used as a cataplasm. (Griff.)

Gelsemium sempervirens, Juss. (Yellow Jessamine.) A climbing evergreen shrub, bearing a profusion of fragrant flowers. Common in pine woods, along streams and rivulets; flowers in February and March. "Possessed of narcotic properties to a very considerable degree." A spirituous tincture of the root is said to have been used with success in chronic rheumatism. It has also been employed in obstinate intermittents. In an over dose it produces vertigo, perverted vision, etc. (Porcher.) A fatal case of poisoning occurred two years ago in this city, from the injudicious use of this article, in the hands of a quack. It is worthy of investigation.

Sesamum indicum, D. C. (Benne.) Originally introduced from Africa by the negroes. The seeds and leaves are officinal; the former have a sweetish, mucilaginous taste, and abound in a bland, inodorous oil, closely resembling olive oil, and capable of being kept a long time without becoming rancid. The leaves contain a rich, gummy matter, which they readily give out to water, forming a bland mucilage. Two or three of the leaves stirred in a glass of water, will render it sufficiently viscid. This is much used in bowel complaints of children. As an application to irritable blistered surfaces, the leaves, dipped in water, are unequalled for their soothing effect, even by the slippery elm. The mucilage also forms an excellent application in ophthalmia, diseases of the skin, etc.

Order, Scrophulariaceae. Figwort Family.

Verbasum thapsus, L. (Mullein.) The whole plant abounds in a narcotic principle, most active in the flowers and root. In this as well as botanically, it approaches Digitalis. It has been found useful in diarrhoea and dysentery attended with torments; also in chronic pulmonary affections. It should be used in decoction; an ounce of the leaves and flowers boiled in a pint of water, and sweetened with honey; dose, three or four ounces. Externally, the leaves steeped in hot water are used as an emollient anodyne.

V. blattaria, L. (Moth Mullein.) Properties similar to the last.

Scrophularia Marilandica, Ell. (Figwort.) The whole plant has a disagreeable fetid smell, and (especially the root) a nauseous and sub-acrid taste. It has been analyzed by Grandon, and found to contain a brown, bitter resin, an extractive, having the odor of benzoic acid
with gum Inaline. It yields its properties to alcohol and water. Diuretic and sedative; externally, Figwort is used as a topical application to piles, and in various cutaneous eruptions. (Griff.)

Canoea Multifida, Benth. Used as tea in the West Indies. (Raf.)

Gratiola Virginica, L. (Hedge Hyssop.) G. aurea, Mull. ; G. acuminata, Walt.; G. pilosa, Ell.; G. sphærocarpa, G. flava, L.; G. Virginica, G. quadridentata, Mx. Several of these species, no doubt, possess identical properties with the G. officinalis, and might be substituted for it.

Veronica peregrina, L. (Speedwell) Is supposed, in some parts of the United States, to be very efficacious in scrophulous tumors of the neck. (Grif.)

V. Virginica, L. (Tall Speedwell.) The root is bitter and nauseous, emetic and cathartic. It yields its active properties to boiling water and to alcohol.

Gerardia quercifolia, Mx. Specific of the Sioux for the bite of rattlesnakes. Used also for the toothache. (Raf.)

Order, Verbenaceae. Vervain Family.

Verbena hastata, L. (Purple Vervain.) Bitter, emetic, and expectorant.

V. articulata, L. A decoction of this plant, with oak bark, has been advantageously used, in poisoning, from the poison sumach, also in erysipelas.

V. officinalis, L. (Nettle leaved Vervain.) Was held sacred by the ancients, and used by ambassadors in their treaties, sacrificial rights, etc.

V. nubelina, L. Contains an acrid mucilage.

Callicarpa Americana, L. (Bermuda Mulberry.) A shrub bearing red berries, in whorls around the stem, of a sweetish taste. Said to be useful in dropsies. (Porcher.)

Order, Labiateae. (Mint Family.)

A large order with us of herbaceous plants, with quadrangular stems and opposite branches and leaves, the latter studded with vesicles, containing an aromatic oil. They are in all cases destitute of any poisonous properties.

Lycepus Virginica, L. (Bugle Weed.) Grows in moist situations. The whole plant is officinal. It has a peculiar but somewhat aromatic.
odor, and a disagreeable, bitter taste, imparting these properties to water; narcotic, tonic and astringent. Beneficial in pulmonary affec-
tions, diminishing the frequency of the pulse, allaying irritation and
preventing cough. It acts like a mild narcotic, and at the same time
displays tonic powers. It appears to act like Digitalis, in changing
the frequency of the pulse, without the unpleasant symptoms so often
attendant on the use of that article. It may be given in infusion or in
syrup.

L. angustifolia, Ell. Var. L. sinuatus, Ell. Properties similar to
the last species.

Collinsonia ovata, Ell. Plant one foot high. In dry pine woods.
Flowers sept. The whole plant has a peculiar odor, owing to the pre-

cence of an essential oil. Carminative, tonic and diuretic.

Monarda punctata, L. (Hoarse Mint.) The whole plant has a strong
aromatic odor, and a warm, pungent, somewhat bitter taste. It abounds
in a powerful volatile oil, which is a good carminative, in doses of one
or two drops, on sugar; as an external application, it is an efficient
rubefacient and counter irritant, in some cases producing vesica-
tion.

M. Mallis, Ell. Less acrid than the former species, and better suited
as a diaphoretic, when given in infusion.

Salvia officinalis, L. (Sage.) Used as a condiment; the infusion is
used as a gargle, and also as a sudorific. It abounds in an essential oil,
containing camphor.

S. lyrata, L. (Cancer Root.) The fresh leaves of this plant, when
bruised and applied to warts, generally destroy them; it is necessary
to continue the application several days, and renew it every 12 hours.
Ell.

S. azurea, (La Marck.) Six feet high; flowers pale blue; occasionally
white; properties unknown.

Physostegia variigata, L.; P. Virginica, Bent; P. virgata, Venet;
P. denticulata, Ell.; P. intermedia, Nutt. (Dragon's Head.) Orna-
tmental plants. The first named species is supposed to possess a "ca-
taleptic power." (Porcher.) "Pourvus de cette singulière faculté," namely,
"ainsi la propriété de la cataleptique, c'est-à-dire, de garder la position
dans laquelle on place la fleur." (Supplement to Dic. Univ. de M.
Mod. 252.)

Pyreanthemum Tuillea, Learenworth. (Mountain Mint) Several
species of Pyreanthemum are indigenous to this State. This and P,
linifolium, Ph., are brought to market in New Orleans by the Indians.

Prunella vulgaris, L. (Heal-all.) Stimulant and astringent.

Scutellaria lateriflora, L. "A quack having formerly vaunted its virtues as a remedy for hydrophobia, this species bears the name of Mad-dog Scutleap.'

Trichostema dichotoma, L. T. linisare, Nutt. (Blue-curls.) Carminative and stimulant; used in flatulence of infants; an infusion of the plant is deemed by some as almost a specific in chlorosis; properties of the two species identical.

Teuchrium Candense, L. (Wild germander.) Aromatic, bitter and tonic.

Heyptis radiata, L. Bitter, aromatic.

Order, Boraginaceae. Borage Family.

Rough-leaved plants, with mucilaginous and emollient properties.

Cynoglossum Virginicum, L. (Hound's Tongue.) Root, vulnerary, styptic; used in wounds and fluxes; leaves narcotic like tobacco, when smoked. (Raf.)

Batschia canescens, Ph. (Cotile Root.) Puccoon of the Indians, who used it to paint their faces; used to color hair oil.

Heliotropium Indicum, Ell. (Turnsole.) A coarse, unsightly weed, used in Guinea and in India; the juice is applied to eruptive surfaces and ophthalmias. (Ainslie.)

Heydrolea ovata, Nutt. Grows in shallow ponds, two feet high; a rather handsome plant, with corymbosé blue flowers.

H. quadrivalvis, Walt. Marshy places, pine woods; a bitter principle exists in the genus. (Lindley.)

Order, Convolvulaceae. Convolvulus Family.

Convolvulus pandanus, Ell. (Wild Potato.) Root large, milky, and of an acid taste; it is feebly cathartic and also diuretic, and has been employed with supposed advantage in strangury and calculus complaints. (U. S. Disp.)

C. batatis, L. (Sweet Potato.) Many varieties; has been so long cultivated from the roots and slips, that it rarely flowers with us; sago has been made from it.

Cuscuta. (Love Vine.) Several species; said to be laxative and hydrogogue.
Order, Solanaceae. Nightshade Family.

An extensive order, consisting mostly of herbaceous plants, with transparent juice. The properties of this order are not uniform, though the general character is that of acro-narcotics; but the fruits of some species, and the roots of others, are among our most valuable esculents, the fruits of others, again, are purely stimulant. (Grif.)

Datura Stramonium, L. (Jamestown Weed.) The effects of stramonium are those of an acro-narcotic poison; beneficially employed in neuralgia and rheumatic pains, allaying the excessive irritability of the system, but producing no disposition to sleep. Its most striking beneficial effects have been witnessed in spasmodic asthma, but even here, when smoked, (the mode of exhibition) it sometimes produces distressing effects, and hence should be used with caution. Externally, the extract of stramonium has been employed to dilute the pupil and lessen the sensibility of the eye; cataplasms of the leaves have been found a beneficial application to inflamed and painful tumors, and to swelled breasts of nursing women. An ointment made of the leaves has been found to afford relief in hemorrhoids and painful ulcers.

Solanum—Nigrum, L. (Nightshade.) Narcotic, diuretic and diaphoretic; used in nervous and other painful affections, and in dropsy. Externally, in the form of poultice, to pained parts, hemorrhoids, etc.

S. Virginianum, Ph. Properties and uses similar to the last.

S. Carolinense, Mx. (Horse Nettle.) Valentin employed the Horse Nettle in tetanus (non-traumatique). The juice of five or six berries were used, augmenting the dose from day to day. (Porcher.)

S. tuberosum, L. (Irish Potato.) In addition to the value of the Irish Potato as an esculent, the leaves and stems possess the medical properties of the genus; an extract of the leaves is highly spoken of by Mr. Dyer, in chronic rheumatism, and in painful affections of the stomach and bowels. Ph: Jour. 1, 500. (Porcher.)

S. lycopersicum, L. (Tomato.) The fruit forms a wholesome article of diet; stated to act on the biliary organs in a very marked manner. (Grif.)

S. melongena. (Egg Plant.) This furnishes another edible fruit in general use.

Physalis viscosa, L. (Ground Cherry,) Said by Clayton to be actively diuretic. Of this genus we have six or seven species—three perennial.
Order, Gentianaceae. Gentian Family.

Sabbatia angularis, Ph. (American Centaury.) This is the most common species of an American genus of plants, with rose colored flowers, of great beauty, and possessed of a pure bitter principle, with no astringency and very little aroma. It is said to act as an emmenagogue, when given in warm infusion, (Griff.) The other species, natives of this State, are S. chloroides, Ph.; S. brachiata, Ell.; S. corymbosa, Bald.; S. calycosa, Ph.; S. campestris, Nutt.; S. gentianoides, Ell. All possess similar properties.

Lisianthus glaucifolius, Nutt. A beautiful flowering plant. Properties probably similar to Sabbatia.

Gentiana aspera, Ell. (Blue Gentian.) Grows in damp places and along rivulets, pine woods; readily known by its beautiful blue flowers, expanding late in autumn. Properties similar to the European gentian, and may be employed for the same purposes. Wood.

Spigelia Marilandica, L. (Carolina Pink-root.) A beautiful flowering plant; in shady woods. Whole plant actively anthelmintic, purgative and narcotic.

Fraseriana Carolinensis, Wall. (American Columbo) Fraserella is an efficacious bitter tonic, inferior to Columbo, but fully equal to most of the other articles of the class. Griff. Grows in Louisiana. Carpenter.

Order, Apocynaceae. Dogbane Family.

A large order, principally tropical, composed of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, abounding in a milky juice; many of them are fine showy plants; the whole are suspicious, for although a few yield edible fruits, and some an innoxious milk, the greater proportion are acrid and poisonous. Griff.

Apocynum cannabinum, L. (Indian-Hemp.) The officinal portion is the root, which pours out a milky juice, on being wounded; it is emetic, cathartic and diaphoretic. The disease in which it has been found most useful is dropsy; sometimes operating as a hydropogue cathartic, and at others causing the most profuse discharge of urine, and thus relieving the tissues of their morbid burden.

A. androsesemifolium, L. (Spreading Dogbane.) In medical properties very similar to the last.

Foresteronia difformis, D. C. A climbing shrub. The juice of this plant is said to be sufficiently caustic to destroy warts and schirrous ex-
crescences; coagulates milk, with which it is used as a wash for freckles.

Nerium oleander. (Oleander, Laurier Rose.) Introduced. This differs from the other plants of the order in having a transparent, and not a milky juice, which is said to clear muddy water; the leaves are an active poison, and even the wood is highly deleterious. An ointment made by boiling the leaves in oil or lard, is in much repute in the South of France, in cutaneous eruptions, and to destroy vermin infesting the hair or skin. Grif.

Order, Asclepiadaceae. Milkweed Family.

This extensive order is composed, with us, of herbaceous, erect and twining plants, abounding in a milky juice.

Asclepias tuberosa L. (Butterfly-weed.) Readily distinguished by its numerous umbels of bright orange colored flowers; the root is the official part; it is diaphoretic, expectorant, and also acts as a mild tonic; it has been employed in pleurisy, and other affections of the pulmonary system, with most decided benefit, producing a copious flow of perspiration without exciting the circulation. Dr. Eberlee found it useful in dysentery; it readily imparts its virtues to boiling water, and may be used in infusion mixed with syrup or honey, or in powder; dose 3j—5j. Used by Indians in snake-bite. Seven or eight other species of asclepias are indigenous to Louisiana, most of which are probably endowed with active medical properties.

Genolobus Carolinianus, Ell. (Negro Vine.) The root acts on the bowels like Colycinth. The juice serves to poison arrows in Guiana. Raf.

G. macrophyllus, Mx. The properties are probably similar to the last.

Order, Oleraceae. Olive Family.

Chionanthus Virginica, Walt. (Fringe Tree.) A small and highly ornamental tree, growing in dry soil. The bark is tonic and febrifuge, with some aromatic properties. An infusion of the root is given in long-standing intermittent.

Ptelea trifoliata, Ell. (Uling Seed.) A shrub or small tree. Leaves vulnerary, vermifuge, in tea or poultice. Raf.
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DIVISION III.

APETALOUS EXOGYNOUS-PLANTS.

Order, Aristolochiaceae. Berinwurt Family.

Asarum Virginicum, L. A. arifolium, Mx. Wild Ginger. Grow in Louisiana, Riddell. The root, which is the part used, has an aromatic and bitterish taste intermediate between ginger and serpentina. The odor, especially in the fresh state, is aromatic and grateful. It contains an aromatic essential oil, upon which its activity depends. The root is an aromatic, stimulant and diaphoretic, resembling serpentina in its action, for which it may be advantageously substituted in most cases where that valuable article is applicable. Properties of both species the same.

Aristolochia serpentaria, L. (Virginia Snakeroot.) The root has a penetrating smell and bitter taste; it acts as a stimulant tonic and diaphoretic, and in some cases as an anti-spasmodic and anodyne, Lindl.

A. hastata, Nutt. Grows in shady woods; flowers in April.

A. reticulata, Nutt. Grows in pine woods; common properties similar, and equal if not superior to the officinal species.

Order, Chenopodiaceae. Goose-foot Family.

Chenopodium album, L. (Lamb’s Quarter.) Leaves succulent, edible, vulnerary; useful in gout, pleurisy, oedema, varix and fistula, Raf.

Ambrina, antihelmentica, Spach. (Worm Seed.) This is well known as one of our most efficient indigenous antihelmentics, adapted to the expulsion of lumbrici in children; it may be administered in a variety of forms, as the expressed juice of the fresh plant, an electuary of the seeds, either pulverized or toasted, a decoction of the leaves in milk, and the essential oil. The latter is the best, as it contains the active principles of the plant in the smallest compass, and is not more offensive to the palate or stomach, than the other preparations. It may be taken on sugar, one to ten drops three times a day, gradually increased; it should be followed after some days by a dose of castor oil.

A. ambrosioides, Spach. Properties somewhat similar to the above, but less active.

Order, Amaranthaceae. Amaranth Family.

Achyranthes repens, Ell. A small prostrate plant; grows in the streets of New Orleans and about dwellings. A decoction of the whole
plant sensibly increases the urinary discharge; in domestic practice it is usual to give it warm, ad libitum, to patients laboring under ischary or dysury; the remedy is generally successful, Ell.

Order, Phytolaccaceae. Pockeed Family.

Phytolacca decandra, L. (Pokeweed.) The berries, root and leaves of the Poke are the parts used in medicine; the berries are succulent and contain much purple juice; they have a sweetish but acrid taste; in tincture they have acquired a well-founded reputation as a remedy for chronic and syphilitic rheumatism, and for allaying syphilitic pains, Lindl.

The root is an exceedingly active emeto-cathartic, and in large doses causes most of the symptoms of the acrid narcotics; the dose in powder, as an emetic, is 20—30 grains; as an alterative 1—5; externally, a drachm of the powder mixed with an ounce of lard, has been found efficacious in psoreoa, tena capitis, and other cutaneous diseases. The leaves are acid, but lose this property on being boiled, and are used as greens; the young shoots, which are thick and succulent, and when etiolated by being covered with rubbish, among which the plant frequently grows, are eaten as asparagus, and by many preferred to that vegetable, being more tender.

Rivina phytiolaccaoides, Nutt. A beautiful plant, with racemes of pale purple flowers, which are succeeded by bright scarlet berries; of no known medical value, but should be examined.

Order, Polygonaceae. Buckwheat Family.

Polygonum aviculare, L. (Knot Grass.) A mild astringent, formerly employed as a vulnerary and astringent.

P. hydropiper, L. P. hydropiperoides, Mx. (Water Pepper.) The leaves of these plants have a burning and biting taste, and even vesiculate when applied to the skin, and produce the same effect on the horse, completely removing the hair from the part on which it is rubbed; employed in veterinary practice as a revulsive; occasionally used as a detergent in chronic ulcers, and internally in gravel. Doctor Eberlee strongly recommended it in amenorrhea, in which complaint he found no other remedy equally effectual. Dose, one drachm of the saturated tincture, or 4—6 grains of the extract, three times a day. U. States Disp.

P. amphibium, L. The root has been employed as a substitute for sarsaparilla.
Rumex crispus, L. (Dock.) Root astringent and tonic, said to resemble rhubarb in its operation; employed externally in various cutaneous affections. The leaves of several species of dock are used as greens.

Order, Lauraceae. Laurel or Bay Family.

Laurus sassafras, L. (Sassafras.) A large shrub, occasionally becoming a tree; seventy feet in height and two in diameter; most parts of the tree, but especially the bark of the root, abound in an essential oil, of a yellow color, heavier than water; the bark is stimulant and diaphoretic, and is used, in combination with other articles, as 'genicium,' sarsaparilla, etc., in cutaneous, rheumatic and venereal complaints; the leaves and pith afford an abundance of mucilage, of a peculiar character, not being affected by alcohol; used as an application to inflamed eyes; they form an excellent diuretic drink in affections of the bowels and bladder; as a culinary article, the leaves, finely powdered, are employed in making gumbo.

L. Carolinensis, Mx. (Sweet Bay Laurier.) A small tree or shrub, growing in damp places, pine woods; bark and leaves acrid and aromatic; the latter and the buds mucilaginous, stomachic, carminative and emmenagogue; leaves used in cookery.

L. Melissaefolia, Walt. Grows around ponds, etc. A shrub, possessing similar properties to the last.

L. Benzoin, Walt. (Spice-bush.) An aromatic shrub, flowering in February, before the expansion of the leaves, and ripening its scarlet berries in September; these last are aromatic and contain much oil; the bark is also aromatic, tonic and stimulant, and has been employed with much success in the treatment of intermittent fevers; it has usually been administered in decoction, but sometimes in powder, Grif.

Order, Loranthaceae. Mistletoe Family.

Viscum verticillatum, Ell. At one time the mistletoe was highly esteemed as a remedy for apoplexy, palsy and other nervous diseases, but is now out of use; the white viscid berries are used in making bird-lime.

Order, Ulmaceae. Elm Family.

Ulmus fulva, Mx. (Slippery Elm.) Elm bark has a peculiar odor and not unpleasant taste; children are fond of it in its fresh state, and it forms a good article of diet when nourishment of the blandest kind is required: it abounds in mucilage; the bark of old trees is to be pro-
ferred, being thicker, less fibrous, and more brittle than that of the young trees; the complaint that the former description (U. S. Disp.) is inferior, must be owing to its having been damaged, or possibly to some other bark being mixed with it. Slippery Elm bark is emollient and demulcent, applicable to all cases where medicines of this class are employed; it is especially recommended in dysentery, diarrhoea and diseases of the urinary passages. Wood. The dry, inner bark, from its expansive property, has been formed into tents and bougies for dilating sinuses and morbid contractions of the urethra. By gluing thick pieces of the bark together, tents or bougies of any desirable size are formed. Externally, the bark forms an invaluable emollient application to inflamed and irritable surfaces; it may be applied in the form of poultice.

The following species of Elms also abound in this State: U. Americana, L. U. racemosa, Thomas. These are large trees. U. atala, Mx., (Wahoo) a small tree; U. crassifolia, Nutt, a tree rather below the middle size, flowering in September. The bark of all these is astringent and tonic, but not at all mucilaginous.

Cettis occidentalis, Mx. (Hackberry.) Bark anodyne, cooling; berries, sweet; astringent, good to eat, useful in dysentery, Raf.

C. pubila, Ph. Properties similar to the above.

Order, Saururaceae. Lizard's-tail Family.

Flowers fragrant, roots emollient, discutent; used in poultice, roasted and mashed, by the Cherokee, Raf.

Order, Euphorbiaceae. Spurge Family.

Trees, shrubs and herbs with milky juice; their original character is acridity, in some to such a degree of concentration, as to be poisonous, while in others it is merely sufficient to render them emetic, cathartic, etc.; and in some again it is so diminished, that their juice is mild and nutritious, Grif.

Euphorbia corollata, L. (Wild Ipecac.) A very common and well known plant, growing in dry soil; the root, which is the officinal part, is inodorous and almost tasteless. According to Dr. Zollickoffer, who first introduced it to the profession, it contains resin, caoutchouc, gum, and probably starch. It is a certain and active emetic, but like most articles of its tribe, is liable to act on the bowels, and in over doses with extreme violence; in very small doses it acts as a diaphoretic. Dose as an emetic, 15—20 grains; as a diaphoretic, 2—3. The recent
root, bruised and applied to the skin for a few minutes, will create a pustular eruption.

E. hypericifolia, L. (Black Prislane.) Astringent and narcotic, beneficial in dysentery, also in menorrhagia and flor-albus. Dose, a wine glass of the infusion, one ounce of the dried plant to a pint of boiling water, several times a day.

F. thymifolia, L. In India the powder is administered in the vermiform diseases of infants. Ainslie.

Acalypha Virginica, L. This plant is said by Dr. Aikin to be expectorant and diuretic; he has used it successfully in cases of humid asthma, ascites and anasarca. Ell.

Stillmania sylvestica, L. (Queen's Delight.) Grows abundantly in dry pine woods; used to some extent in South Carolina in serpocia and cutaneous diseases, Porcher. From observations of Dr. Lopez, of Mobile, it appears to be one of our most valuable indigenous alteratives; he employed it in combination with sarsaparilla, in secondary and tertiary syphilis, typhoid fever, chronic rheumatism, etc., with eminent success. (N. O. Med. and Surg. Jour. vol. 3, p. 40.) Used by the Cahuatche Indians in chronic diarrhoea. This practice has been followed by an intelligent planter of this State, on his plantation, for many years, with satisfactory results.

S. ligustrina, Mx. A handsome shrub, worthy of investigation.

S. Sebifera, L. (Tallow Tree.) Introduced from China; cultivated in and around New Orleans as an ornamental shade tree; it bears a profusion of flowers, which, on a large majority of trees, are all sterile, and when they are fertile, many of them fall off without producing fruit. The infertility is probably owing to the tree having been cultivated from branches instead of seed. The Chinese, according to Thunberg, employ the concreted oil extracted from the fruit, in the manufacture of candles; an ointment made from the oil is employed in nocturnal fevers. Porcher.

Ricinus communis, L. (Palm Christi.) A native of China; in gardens and neglected places; grows well and bears abundantly.

**Order, Juglandaceae. Walnut Family.**

Juglans nigra, L. (Black Walnut.) Grows in fertile hills; inner bark acrid and styptic; dyes black; the fresh rind of the fruit cures ringworms, tetter, etc. Nuts edible, yield oil; immature fruit used for pickles and making catsup.
Carya oliviformis. (Pecan.) A large forest tree, esteemed for its edible nuts. Several other species of carya yield edible nuts; bark of all the species astringent; tinctoreal; used for dyeing woollens on plantations.

Order, Cupulifereae. Oak Family.

Quercus tinctoria. (Black Oak.) Of the oaks, we have in Louisiana about twenty species, all trees, generally large; they are of greater use in the industrial arts than as medical agents; their general character is that of astringents; they all possess similar properties, varying in degree, principally.

The bark, which is the official part, has an austere, bitterish taste, and contains tannin, gallic acid and an extractive matter. It is astringent and somewhat tonic, and has been used with advantage in intermittent fever, chronic diarrhea, and in certain forms of passive hemorrhage; externally applied it is often productive of benefit: the decoction may be advantageously used as a bath, particularly for children, where a combined tonic and astringent effect is desirable, and the stomach is not disposed to receive medicines kindly. It has been employed in marasmas, scrofula, intermittent fever, chronic diarrhea and cholera infantum; as an injection in leucorrhea; a wash in prolapsus ani and hemorrhoidal affections; and a gargle in slight inflammation of the fauces, attended with prolapsed uvula; the decoction is often highly useful. U. S. Disp.

Castanea vesca, L. (Chestnut.) In Louisiana, Riddell, chestnut; a large tree, not found in the western part of this State.

E. pumila, Mx. (Chinquapin.) A shrub or small tree, frequently attaining a height of 39–40 feet, with a diameter of 15–20 inches.

C. alnifolia, Nutt. (Dwarf Cyn.) A small shrub, with creeping roots, growing in patches, pine woods.

The fruit of all these species is sweet and edible; the bark is astringent and tonic, and has been employed in the cure of intermittents.

Fagus sylvatica, Ait. (Beech.) The bark of the beech is astringent, and has been used in the treatment of intermittents. A narcotic principle called fagine has been found in the husks. The nuts are edible; they afford an oil little inferior to olive oil. The lard of hogs fattened on beech nuts is oily, and the flesh soft and of an inferior quality.

Order, Myricaerc. Sweetgale Family.

Myrica cerifera, L. (Wax Myrtle.) A very common evergreen
Dr. Hale on the Medical Botany of Louisiana.

shrub; the bark of the root is acrid, stimulant and astringent. The

decocation is employed as a domestic remedy in chronic diarrhoea of chil-
dren. The berries afford a large amount of wax, of a peculiar green

color. It is procured by boiling the berries, when it rises to the sur-
face of the water; it appears to possess astringent and narcotic pro-

perties, and has been successfully employed in typhoid dysentery. (Am.

Jour. Med. Scien. III. 313.)

M. Caroliniana, Wrang. A small shrub, with larger leaves than the

last; properties similar.

Order, Betulaceae.

Betula nigra, L. (Black Birch.) The bark has a sweet spicy smell

and taste; diaphoretic; the empyrumatic oil of the distilled wood gives

the peculiar smell to Russia leather. Raf.

Alnus serrulata, Ait. (Alder.) The bark and leaves are bitter and

somewhat astringent; used in scrofula and cutaneous diseases; also in

haematuria; the bark is used by tanners and dyers.

Order, Salicaceae. Willow Family.

Salix nigra, Ell. (Black Willow.) A small tree, very common on

river banks, etc.

S. longifolia, Muhl. (Long-leaved Willow.) Smaller than the last,
tall and slender, flowering after the expansion of the leaves.

S. Conifera, Wrang. (Cone-leaving Willow.) A small shrub,
grows on moist-upland and prairies.

These species possess analogous properties; the bark has a bitter,
astringent taste, and when dry, a slight, aromatic odor. It has been
long employed as a substitute for the Peruvian bark in the cure of inter-
mittent fevers, but is considered inferior to that article. Salicin pos-
sesses tonic properties analogous to quinia; but in an inferior degree;
as a simple bitter it appears to rank with gentian, colombo, etc.; its
principal good effects being seen in the improved appetite that frequently
follows its use.

Populus angulata, Ait. (Cottonwood.) One of our largest forest
trees; common in alluvial soil; the bark possesses properties analogous
to that of the willow; it contains salicin, and another crhystalizable
principle called populin. The leaf buds exude a resinous substance of
a balsamic odor and bitterish, pungent taste. It has been employed in
the form of spirituous tincture in pectoral, nephritic and rheumatic com-
plaints.
Order, *Balsaminaceae.* Sweet Gum Family.

*Liquidambar styraciflua,* L. (Sweet Gum.) This tree exudes fragrant, balsamic resin, in this climate, in considerable quantities; sought after by children, who are fond of chewing it. Properties those of the other balsams, Griff.

Order, *Urticaceae.* Nettle Family.

*Morus rubra,* L. [Red Mulberry.] A small tree, grows in fertile soil. Mulberries are refreshing and laxative, and serve to prepare a grateful drink well adapted to febrile cases; a syrup is made from the juice, and used as a pleasant addition to gurgles, in inflammation of the throat; they are, however, more used as food than medicines. U. S. Disp.


*Urtica Canadensis,* L. [Canada Nettle.] Stinging, back fibrous; has been spun as flax.

*U. purpurascens,* Nutt. [Purplie Nettle.] Nearly allied to *U. dioica,* and possessing similar properties; haemostatic.

*Pilea pumila,* Gray. [Rich Weed.] The smooth stems pulv. said to be useful in the form of poultice, to inflamed surfaces, and to relieve the eruption caused by the poison sumach.

Sub-CLASS: CYGNOS PUMA.


*Pinus australis,* Mx. [Long-leaved Pine.] A large tree, forming vast forest, to the exclusion of almost every other growth. This species furnishes the greatest proportion of turpentine obtained in the Southern States.

*P. taeda,* Willd. [Loblolly Pine, Old-field Pine.] This is a much larger tree than the preceding, frequently growing in moderately fertile soil, overtopping the surrounding forest trees; yields turpentine in moderate quantity and consistent quality.

*P. ursina,* Mx. [Yellow Pine.] Like all the genus, yields turpentine.

*Cupressus disticha,* L. [Cypress.] A rich balsam is obtained from
incisions in the tree and from the cones, by boiling; it is diuretic and
carmineative; externally it is applied to cuts and wounds.

Junipera Virginiana, L. [Red Cedar.] Grows abundantly and to
a middle sized tree, on the alluvial lands of Red River, near the State
line. The leaves only are officinal; they have a peculiar, not-unplea-
sant odor, and bitter taste, stimulant, diaphoretic, diuretic and emmena-
gogue.

CLASS II:

Monopetalous or Endogenous Plants.

Aconitum dracunculum, L. [Indian Turnip.] Triphymum, L. These
species possess identical properties; the corin or root in the recent
state has a peculiar odor, and is virulently acrid, producing a burning
sensation when applied to the tongue; the partially dried root has been
advantageously given in asthma, chronic catarrh, chronic rheumatism,
and various affections connected with a cachetic state of the system.

It may be given in doses of ten grains, in sugar or gum arabic, repeated
several times a day; the roots may be preserved fresh in sand for med-
ical use for a long time; the turnip yields starch of a superior
quality.

Peltandria Virginica, Raf. [Virginia Indian Turnip.] Properties
similar to the preceding; grows in marshes.

Aconus Calamus, L. [Calamus Sweet Flag.] The root, the part
used, has a strong and fragrant odor, and warm, bitterish, aromatic
taste; it yields its virtues to water, but more fully to alcohol. It is
stimulant and tonic; useful in colic and atomic condition of the stomach,
and other deranged conditions of the gastric organs; it may be given
in powder; dose, 2j, or in infusion; when prescribed in flatulent colic
of children, it should be combined with magnesium, Grif.

Order, Typhaeae, Cat-tail Family.

Typha latifolia, L. [Cat-tail.] The powdered flowers have been
used as an application to ulcers. The pollen of typha is inflammable,
like that of lycopodium, and is used as a substitute for it, Lindl.

Order, Alismaceae, Water Plantain Family.

Aquatic or semi-aquatic plants, with fleshy roots, which are whole,
some and nutritious.
Sagittaria sagittifolia, Mx. [Arrow-head.] Several varieties; the root is much employed as food among the aboriginal tribes. The leaves applied to the breasts of nursing females, it is said, will tend to dispel the milk, Grif.

Several other species of arrow-head grow in this State, all probably possessing similar properties.

Order, Orchidaceae. Orchis Family.

This is an extensive order, with us, of perennial herbs, more remarkable for the bizarre figure of their multiform flowers, which are sometimes of surpassing beauty, than for their value as remedial agents; the nutritive substance salep, is supposed to be derived from some species of orchis; and it is probable that all the species of this and the allied genera will afford this article.

Cypripedium pubescens, Ell. [Ladies Slipper.] The root, which is the officinal part, is mucilaginous, and has a pungent, nauseous taste; sedative and antispasmodic; employed as a domestic remedy in numerous affections of the nervous system. Dr. Ives has used it in hypochondriacal cases and certain neuralgic affections, with morbid sensibility of the whole nervous system, obtaining from a dose of twelve grains sound and perfect sleep, when all the usual preparations had failed. Our other native species of cypripedium, C. specabile, Willd. and C. parviflorum Salisb. Riddell, are supposed to be identical in properties with the preceding.

Goodyera pubescens, R. Br. [Neottia, Ph.] [Cancer Weed.] G. gracilis, Beyll. G. latifolia, Torr. G. cernua, Ricord. G. aestivalis. Sensible and medicinal properties very similar to cypripedium. The recent plant and roots bruised are applied in cancer, lupus and other ill-conditioned ulcers; the root is given internally in the form of powder, in nervous and convulsive diseases; it quiets irritation of the nervous system and produces sleep.

Order, Amaryllidaceae. Amaryllis Family.

Amaryllis atomasco, L. [Atomasco Lilly.] A beautiful vernal plant, said to poison horses and cattle, producing the disease called staggerers.

Pancratium coronarium, Le Conte. Grows in marshes, flowers in April.

P. occidentale, Le Conte. Grows in dry soil; flowers in August;
handsome flowering plants, with large bulbous roots. Fresh roots emetic; acts like squills, but weaker; diuretic, Raf.

_Hypoxis erecta_, L. [Star Grass.] Root tuberose, edible, eaten by children, sought after by hogs, which become fat by feeding upon them. Vulnerary, febrifuge, used in agues and in chronic ulcers. Raf.

**Order, Hadomoraceae.** Bloodwort Family.

_Aletris farinosa_, L. [Blazing Star.] Root intensely bitter; tonic and stomachic, and in large doses emetic and cathartic, displaying narcotic properties. Employed with benefit in colic, in chronic rheumatism, and in dropsical affections; a spirituous tincture is the best form of administration.

_A. aurea_, Walt. Flowers yellow; expand later than in the preceding species; properties no doubt similar.

**Order Iridaceae.** Iris Family.

_Iris versicolor_, L. _I. hexagona_, Walt. _I. cuprea_, Ph. _I. cristata_, Mx. [Flower-de-Luce.] All more remarkable for the beauty of their flowers than for their utility. The recent root has an unpleasant acid taste which is diminished by age; it is emetic, cathartic and diuretic. It was a favorite remedy among the Indians, and used by them in most cases requiring purgation, Griff.

_Sisyrinchium anceps_, S. _Bermudianum_, S. _muïronatum_, Mx. _S. minus_, Gr. and Eng. [Blue-eyed Grass.] The roots of all our native species are acrid, and in decoction are said to be purgative, Griff.

**Order Dioscoreae.** Yam Family.

_Dioscorea villosa_, L. [Wild Yam.] A decoction of the root is unquestionably a valuable remedy in bilious colic; an ounce of the root is to be boiled in a pint of water, and half of it given at once. It acts with remarkable promptitude; diaphoretic, expectorant and emetic, Riddell.

**Order, Smilacace.** Smilax Family.

Herbaceous plants and under shrubs; sometimes climbing and often having fleshy tubers.

_Smilax herbacea_, L. Properties unknown.

_S. glauca_, Walt. _S. sarsaparilla_, L. Grows in moist woods, very common; root large and tuberous. Spoken of by Martens. [Travels, l.
96) as being highly prized in Brazil as a specific in syphilis, and also beneficial in gout and chronic cutaneous complaints.

*S. pseudochina, L.* Grows in Louisiana, Riddell. Used in medicine as an alternative, and as well as the preceding species, forms the basis of many diet drinks. From these roots, with sassafras, Indian corn and molasses, the negroes manufacture a very agreeable beer, Bil.

*S. laurifolium, L.* Stem large, prickly below; climbing small trees, and covering them with its rich evergreen foliage. Root tuberous, large; enters into the composition of diet drinks, sarsaparilla compounds, etc. Used as food by the aborigines, and the practice has been made available by their European successors in time of scarcity. Flowers in August, and matures its fruit in winter. Grows about springs, and in places perennially moist.

*S. lanceolata, Walt.* In deep marshes; berries red; they abound in a substance resembling caoutchouc, capable of great distension; blown into balloons by children.

*S. punica, Walt.* Prostrate, berries scarlet; in dry soil.

Some half dozen other species of *Smilax* are common in this State, most of which possess similar properties to the foregoing.

*Trillium sessile, L.* [Three-leaved Nightshade.] The only species found in this State. To the North they are numerous; they all possess the same properties. The tuberous roots have a faint terebinthenate odor, and a peculiar aromatic taste, producing, when chewed, a sensation of heat about the face and an increased flow of saliva. They were in use among the Indians in hemorrhagic discharges, particularly in those peculiar to females, Grif.

In domestic practice they are administered preparatory to parturition, hence the name, Birthroot, Riddell. The roots are generally violently emetic, and their mawkish, rather nauseous berries, are at least suspicious, Lindl.

Order, *Liliaceae.* Lily Family.

Asparagus officinalis. [Garden Asparagus.] A native of Europe, escaped from gardens, and partially naturalized in this country; diuretic. U. S. Disp.

Polygonaum pubescens, Ph. [Smaller Solomon's Seal.] Properties
similar to Convallaria. Polygonatum, Lam. Vide United States Disp. 1820.

Scilla, angustata, Eng. and Gr. [Quamash.] [Beargrass.] Probably only a variety of S. esculenta. Natchitoches and above.

S. crocea; dry soil; a much smaller plant than the preceding. V. Pursh. For. Am. Sept. 1, 226.

Order, Melanthaceae. Colchicum Family.

Melanthium Virginicum, L. Grows in wet, shady situations. Like most of the order, this is an active poison; a certain but rather dangerous remedy for the itch; used as a wash. U. S. Disp.

Stenanthium angustifolium, Gray.

Veratrum, Pursh.

Grows in open pine woods; root bulbous; stem 4—6 feet high, slender; panicle of white flowers, often two feet long. Medical properties probably similar to those of V. viride. [See N. O. Medical and Surgical Journal, for September, 1852, p. 141.] Worthy of investigation.

Order, Commelinaceae. Spiderwort Family.

Commelina Virginica, L.

C. erecta; C. communis. [Day Flower.]

Properties identical; root antifebrile; leaves eaten by the Indians as greens, emollient, pectoral and anodyne; the blossoms afford a fine azure blue, by a peculiar process, called Hoosack, in Japan, Raf.

Tradescantia Virginica, L.

T. pilosa, Lehni.

T. rosea, Went. [Spiderwort.]

Ornamental, leaves much liked as greens by the Cherokees, Raf.

Order, Cyperaceae. Sedge Family.

Grass-like plants, with solid, triangular stems.

Cyperus repens, L. [Nut-gals, Sweet Coco.] Grows in fertile, sandy soil; tubers sweet, edible, sought after by hogs.

C. hydrea, Mx. [Coco Grass, Bitter Coco.] This scourge of the Southern planter has gradually spread until it has reached the Northern boundary of the State, at a few points. It was probably introduced from the West Indies, where it is said by Dr. Hamilton to be a pest to
to the sugar plantations, overrunning them and rendering them barren. The roots are bitter, and slightly astringent; eaten by hogs.

Cyperus articulatus, Mx. Grows in Louisiana, Carpenter. In Guinea this is considered one of their remedies for worms, Mer, and De Lens.

Eleocharis palustris, R. Br. [Bog Scirpus.] Lenay says the roots are astringent, and that they are employed in decoction in diarrhoea and hemorrhage. Mer. and De Lens. Porcher.

Order Gramineae. Grass Family.

Stems cylindrical, hollow; closed at the joints.

Oryza sativa. [Rice.] A genus supposed to consist of but a single species. The varieties are almost innumerable, some of which differ widely from each other—"Being wholly free from laxative properties, it is adapted to cases of lax bowels, in which there is a tendency to diarrhoea." The opinion that a rice diet produces injurious effects on the eyes, is maintained by Dr. Porcher, whose opportunities of observation appear to have been ample. Doctor Dickson, on the contrary, dissents from it entirely. Rice is still cultivated to some extent in this State, but less than formerly.

Zea maize. [Indian Corn.] This useful genus, native of America, like the preceding, comprises but a single species, but the varieties are exceedingly numerous. Corn differs from the other cereals in containing no gluten; hence the meal does not undergo the fermentation called rising, Grif.

Cynodon dactylon, Pers. [Bermuda Grass.] Introduced, common; the root is used in the shape of ptisan, as an appetient and diuretic; the extract is said to purge, like manna; the plant contains a nutritive principle. Dem. Elem. de Bot, quoted by Porcher.

Glyceria siuatans, R. Br. [Manna Grass.]

Saccharum officinarum, L. [Sugar Cane.] Probably a native of Southern Asia. Many varieties cultivated. Sugar is but little employed in medicine, but enters largely into the composition of many compound remedies. Dr. Rush says that sugar and molasses, when freely used by children, are excellent anthelmintics; sugar has likewise proved beneficial in scurvy, and in some chronic diseases of the skin; it has been recommended as an antidote in poisoning by arsenic and several other mineral salts, but as its action is merely that of an emol-
lient and demulcent, it should not be relied on to the exclusion of other remedies, Grif.

*Zizania aquatica, L.* [Wild Rice.] Grows in marshes, frequently in water; six to twelve feet high; ripens its fruit in October. The grain is a favorite food among the Northern Indians.

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**SERIES II.**

**Cryptogamous or Flowerless Plants.**

Vegetables destitute of proper flowers.

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**CLASS III. ACROGENS.**

*Order, Equisetaceae.* Horse-tail Family.

*Equisetum hyemale, L.* [Shave Rush.] Formerly grew in dense brakes of great extent, on the alluvial land of the Mississippi and Red River, six feet high; roots stimulant and diuretic; used in dropsies, meastural and syphilitic diseases, Raf. Produces purgation in horses; useful for polishing wood and metal; a property which is due to the great quantity of silex deposited beneath the cuticle.

*Order, Carolles. Ferns.*

Leafy plants, with the leaves generally rising from prostrate root-stalks, rolled up in the bud.

The leaves generally contain a thick astringent mucilage, with a little odor, on which account many are considered pectoral and laxative. The stems are both bitter and astringent, hence have been employed as anthelmintics; they are emmenagogue and purgative.

*Polypodiaceae.* True Ferns.


*P. hexagonopterum, Mx.* Shady woods.

*Pteris aquilina, L.* [Common Brake.] Root [stem] astringent and vermifugus; said to be a remedy for tape-worm, an ounce of the infusion being given at a dose. This plant yields a large proportion of alkali,
and on the burning of the pine woods; where it grows abundantly, returns to the soil a fertilizing principle in which the pine is deficient; the astringent principle renders it useful in the preparation of leather and kid gloves, Porcher.

Osmunda spectabilis, Willd. [Flowering Fern.] Root demulcent, sub-astringent, esculent, boiled in milk like arrow-root; useful in diarrhoea, cholera infantum, etc., Raf.

O. cinnamomea, L. [Common Fern.] Vermifuge; eaten by Indians, Raf.

Botrichium Virginicum, Swatz; lunarioideus, Swatz. [Manwort.] Mild astringents.

Ophioglossum vulgatum, L.
O. bulbosum, Ell. [Snake Leaf.] Emollient; used for ulcers and sores, Raf.

Lycopodium alopecuroides, L. [Clab-Mass.]
L. clavatum, L.

L. Corallinimum, Rid. Diuretic, emmenagogue and apertient. Used in dropsy, gout, scurvy and diarrhoea. Inflammable pollen used in pyrotechnics, Raf.

Addenda.

Scutellaria lateriflora. [Scutcap.] Dr. Cleaveland of Vermont recommends the scuelcap as a valuable nerve, allaying nervous irritability from whatever cause produced. In delirium tremens, tic-douloureux, convulsions from irritation of the ganglionic nerves or spinal cord, in chorea sanctititi, dental irritation among children, as well as in the ordinary diseases of the nerves, when a soothing and quieting medicine is indicated, Dr. C. prefers it to all other antispasmodics, except where a more immediate impression is desirable, when he would have recourse to ether, chloroform, etc. He considers it a tonic, diaphoretic, and diuretic.

Dr. Stabler of Virginia adds his testimony to the efficacy of the scuelcap in tic-douloureux, tremors from alcoholic drink, and depression of spirits from dyspepsia. Dr. C. has no experience of the remedy in hydrocephalia, but is disposed to believe it may deserve some portion of the reputation it once enjoyed in that formidable disease. Dose, $\frac{1}{3}$ jn infused in a pint of water, and a wine-glass to be taken three or four times a day.

Isamalia palustris, L. [Water Purslane] A small creeping or floating plant, on the margins of ponds and ditches. Used for asthma.
and chronic cough, phthisis, etc.; also in catarhal fever. An infusion, $\frac{3}{4}$ to a pint of water, and drank during the day, will often relieve the paroxysm of asthma, after the most powerful narcotics have failed. Ives.

Isnardia natans, T. and Gr. A larger plant than the preceding, with longer capsules, and perfectly formed petals; frequently submersed. Properties, no doubt, very similar.

**Buneliaceae.** [Pine-Apple Family.]

**Agave Virginica.** [Virginia Aloe.] Plant four feet high, flowers fragrant, root bitter. Tincture used for cholic. Chewed in obstinate diarrhea by the Cherokees. Violent, but efficient, Raf.

**A. Americana, L.** [American Aloe, Maguey.] A large evergreen, succulent plant, indigenous in Mexico and other parts of tropical America.

The supposition that the agave flowers but once in a century is erroneous; this happens every fifteen or twenty years, a long period being required for the offshoots to attain sufficient maturity to bear flowers and fruit.

On being tapped it yields a large amount of saccharine juice, which, by evaporation, may be converted into syrup, and even sugar. By fermentation it is changed into the vinous liquor called Pulque, from which a spirit, known under the name of Vino Muscal, is obtained. The juice, when fresh, has an acrid taste, and reddens litmus paper. It is said to be laxative, diuretic and emmenagogue. The fibres of the old leaves, separated by bruising and maceration in water, are used for forming thread, [Lenoble] which is woven into coarse fabrics suitable for common wear. Cordage, likewise, of a durable character, is manufactured from it.
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A. HESTER, M. D.,
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Summe bonum medicinae, sanitas.—Galen.

N. O. Charity Hospital.

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