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OLD-STYLE BLOSSOMS PASSE

Were Valuable for Home Remedies in Days of Our Grandmothers and Herb Doctors.

With the exception of some of the daintier spring blossoms, our wild flowers are passed by without comment. Violets, hepaticas, bluebells, trilliums are still sought after and picked, the fall asters are gathered by some and the goldenrod is admired, but passing into disrepute on account of its hay-fever aggravations. There was a time, however, when grandmother was young, relates the Ohio State Journal, when most of our common field and wayside flowers were of prime importance in the household, in the shape of family bitters, physics and curealls.

Yarrow, a pest to the farmer and of doubtful beauty even to the wild flower lover, was at one time a most useful herb from which a tea was made that cured all sorts of ailments, from toothache to typhoid fever. From the boneset plant, so common along our streams now, a tea was also made which was a prime favorite in the curing of that common malady, "break-bone fever"—do not laugh—probably what we know today as grippe. Camomile, we call it dog fennel, was brewed into a tea as well, and was used as a tonic and blood purifier. Jimsonweed, a corruption of Jamestown weed, was valued by the settlers of that early village as a narcotic, and is still so used, for that matter. Self-heal, the little close-growing purple-flowered pest of our lawns, was used to relieve sufferers with quinsy and other throat afflictions. This plant belongs to the mint family, and most of the mints were of use medicinally. Pennyroyal, spearmint, Oswego tea, bergamot, catnip and mother-wort were all of value to the simpler of a century or more ago.

CASTE WIELDS AN INFLUENCE

Santals Prefer Starvation Rather Than to Eat Food Cooked by the Brahmins.

Occupation is still preserved among the Indian natives by inheritance and tradition, so that the diversion of labor to industrial pursuits has been an almost impossible task confronting the British government, the National Geographic Magazine observes. The supply of agricultural labor constantly outruns the demand, thus keeping the wage scale extremely low. Caste also prevents people from leaving crowded districts and going to sparsely inhabited regions, of which there are many.

In time of distress the restrictions which caste throws about rescue and relief work would be exasperating if they were not so tragic. For example, in the terrible Orissa famine thousands of Santals perished, in the midst of ample supplies furnished by the government, before it was discovered that there is a peculiar tenet of their faith which forbids them to touch food cooked by Brahmins. It was also discovered that skilled weavers would not go to the ordinary relief work camps for fear that the hard labor would cause them to lose the delicacy of touch which they value so highly.

The Tempermental Artist.

The Art World Magazine is willing to admit that the public taste and preferences in art is not to be despised, and it thinks artists should consider those preferences. It says:

"An artist only honors himself when he never loses for one moment the thought of pleasing that great world-public. He should seek forever to captivate it, not merely by pleasing it, but by pleasing it so much that it will be delighted to take off his hat to him, thank the giver of all good things for having created him, and honor itself by nailing his name high up in the temple of fame. Thus he will win a niche in the heart of mankind, which means the immortal love of the race. . . . The truly wise and great artist digs down deep into the heart and soul of man, there to sense if he can what the race is feeling, thinking and longing to have expressed for itself—in the hope of being enraptured by the nobility of the forms in which the artist expresses the things which he finds there."

Buttons a By-Product of Beer.

The spent yeast which collects in breweries and distilleries is put through a process which turns it out in the form of buttons, door-bell plates and knife handles. Formerly this left-over material was considered to be a bothersome waste; now it is utilized, every bit of it. As it is gathered from the vats the yeast is of a dirty, gray-brown color. The first operation is to dye it and then to work it over until it assumes the form of powder and can be hot-pressed into any form. In this stage it is called "ernolith." It may be sawed, scraped, filed, drilled, engraved, turned to an edge and polished.—Popular Science Monthly.

Raised Her Own Curls.

Elizabeth had accompanied her mother down town on a shopping trip. While mother was busy selecting her goods Elizabeth wandered over to the office quarters, which were on that floor, and stood looking into the window of the cashier's cage. Noticing the pretty golden curls of the child, the cashier asked: "Little girl, where did you get those pretty curls?" Elizabeth did not answer and the young man again asked, in a teasing way: "Where did your mamma buy them?"

In a scornful and emphatic tone Elizabeth answered: "She never buyed 'em; I raised 'em."

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