

597. *SERRATULA tinctoria*. SAW-WORT. — The whole herb produces a yellow tincture.

598. *SENECIO Jacobæa*. RAGWORT. — The roots, stalks, and leaves, before the flowering season, give out a green colour which can be fixed on wool.

599. *STACHYS sylvatica*. HEDGE-HOREHOOND. — The whole herb is said to dye a yellow colour.

600. *THALICTRUM flavum*. YELLOW MEADOW-RUE. — The roots and leaves both give out a fine yellow colour.

601. *THAPSIA villosa*. DEADLY CARROT. — The umbels are employed by the Spanish peasants to dye yellow.

602. *TORMENTILLA erecta*. ERECT TORMENTIL. — This root is red, and might probably be usefully employed.

603. *TRIFOLIUM pratense*. MEADOW-CLOVER. — The inhabitants of Scania employ the heads to dye their woollen cloth green.

604. *URTICA dioica*. NETTLE. — The roots of nettles are used to dye eggs of a yellow colour against the feast of Easter by the religious of the Greek church, as are also madder and logwood for the same purpose.

605. *XANTHIUM strumarium*. LESSER BURDOCK. — The whole herb with the fruit dyes a most beautiful yellow.

SECTION XII.—PLANTS USED IN RURAL ŒCONOMY.

THE following few plants are such as are used for domestic purposes which do not fall under any of the foregoing heads, and I therefore have placed them together here.

606. *CONFERVA*. — This green thready substance has the power of rendering fetid water sweet; for which purpose, when water is scarce, it is usually put into water-tubs and reservoirs.

607. *CORYLUS Avellana*. HAZEL NUT. — The young shoots of hazel

put into casks with scalding water, render them sweet if they are musty, or contain any bad flavour.

608. *CROCUS vernus*. SPRING CROCUS.—Is well known as a spring flower, producing one of the most cheerful ornaments to the flower-garden early in the spring. It affords a great variety in point of beauty and colour, and is an article of considerable trade among the Dutch gardeners, who cultivate a great number of varieties, which every year are imported into this and other countries.

609. *EQUISETUM hyemale*. DUTCH RUSH.—Of this article great quantities are brought from Holland for the purpose of polishing mahogany. The rough parts of the plant are discovered to be particles of flint.

610. *ERIOPHORUM polystachion*. COTTON GRASS.—The down of the seeds has been used, instead of feathers, for beds and cushions; and the foliage in the north of Scotland is considered useful as fodder.

611. *GALIUM verum*. YELLOW LADIES' BEDSTRAW.—The foliage affords the dairy-maid a fine rennet for making cheese.

612. *JUNCUS glaucus*. } These are collected by persons to
 conglomeratus. } make mats with, and by which
 many of the travelling people in the country earn a livelihood.

613. *JUNCUS effusus*. BLUEISH RUSH.—This is collected in Holland, and brought to this country for candle wicks. The poor people in Hampshire collect these and peel them, and after dipping them in any kind of grease or fat use them for lights instead of candles.

614. *PHILADELPHUS coronarius*. SYRINGA.—The good housewives in Wales rub the floors of their best rooms and the furniture with the leaves of this plant, which gives them a beautiful polish and colour.

615. *PLANTAGO major*. GREAT PLANTAIN.—The seeds of this plant are gathered for food for Canary birds, and are much in request by the breeders of this species of feathered choristers. It is considered a good alterative, and necessary to the health of these and other birds that are kept in cages.

616. *RUSCUS aculeatus*. BUTCHER'S BROOM.—This is in considerable request for making brooms for butchers, who clean their stalls down with them.

617. *SCIRPUS lacustris*. BULL-RUSH.—This grows principally in the shallow muddy parts of rivers and ponds; is in great demand for making mats, bottoms of chairs, and other domestic purposes.

SECT. XII.—PLANTS USED IN RURAL ECONOMY. 131

618. *SONCHUS arvensis*. FIELD SOW-THISTLE.—This is a very excellent food for hogs and tame rabbits.

619. *TAMUS communis*. BLACK BRYONY.—The young shoots of this plant are collected by the cottagers as food for hogs, and are said to make them fat.

620. *THUJA occidentalis*. ARBOR-VITÆ.—The leaves of this tree bruised and applied to the soles of the feet are said to cure the tertian ague. The usual mode is, to put it close to the soles in a bag, and renew it every other morning.

621. *ULMUS campestris*. COMMON ELM.—The leaves of this tree are stripped off in Worcestershire and boiled as food for hogs, and are found to be very nutritive to that animal.

622. *ULMUS montana*.—WITCH ELM.—The wood of this will strip into thongs, which are used to tie different articles, similar to bass-matting.

SECTION XIII. — POISONOUS PLANTS GROWING
IN GREAT BRITAIN.

“On the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

I HAVE found it necessary to be particular in my description of the articles in this section, as I find that, although the knowledge of Botany has in some measure increased, yet, in general, we are not better acquainted with the Poisonous Vegetables than we were thirty years ago. Many and frequent are the accidents which occur in consequence of mistakes being made with those plants; but it in general happens that, from feelings easily appreciated, persons do not like to detail such misfortunes; which not only hides the mischief, but prevents, in a great measure, the antidotes becoming so well known as for the good of society we could wish they were. This I experienced in my researches after several facts which I wished to ascertain regarding this subject. However, whilst we have in common use such plants as Foxglove, Hemlock, and Henbane, and which are now so generally sold in our herb-shops, people who sell them ought to be particularly careful not to let such fall into the hands of ignorant persons, and thereby be administered either in mistake or in improper quantities. Our drug-