

Medical properties and uses.—This root is tonic and carminative. It was much employed by Avicenna, and the Arabians, in vomitings, colics, lientery, difficult menstruation, and as an antidote for venomous bites. It is certainly an agreeable stomachic, and useful in flatulent colic, but it is scarcely ever used by modern practitioners. The dose of the powdered root may be from grs. viij to ʒss, two or three times a day.

CUSPARIA. Vide *Bonplandia Trifoliata*.

CYDONIÆ SEMINA. Vide *Pyrus Cydonia*.

DAPHNE.¹ *Spec. Plant. Willd.* ii. 415.

Cl. 8. Ord. 1. Octandria Monogynia. *Nat. ord.* Vepreculæ Linn. Thymelææ Juss.

G. 773. Cal. none. Cor. four-cleft, corollaceous, withering, inclosing the stamens. *Drupe* one-seeded.

* *Flowers lateral.*

Species 1. *D. Mezereum*. Common Mezereon. *Med. Bot.* iv. 716. t. 68. *Smith Flor. Brit.* 420.

Officinal. MEZEREI CORTEX. *Lond.* DAPHNES MEZEREI CORTEX.

Edin. RADICIS CORTEX. *Dub.*² The bark of the root.

Syn. Laureole gentile (F.) Kellerkals (G.) Mezereo (L.)

Mezereon grows wild in England and the north of Europe; but for medical use, and as an ornamental shrub, it is cultivated in gardens. Its flowers expand in March, before the leaves. It is a hardy plant, seldom exceeding four feet in height, with a strong woody branching stem, covered with a smooth pale olive-brown cuticle, and a tough fibrous inner bark. The root is of a fibrous texture, pale-coloured, with a smooth, olive-coloured bark: the leaves, which are protruded from the extremities of the branches, are tender, pale green, deciduous, lanceolate, sessile, entire, and smooth: the flowers are of a pale rose colour, odorous, surrounding the branches in clusters below where the leaves are sent off; they are sessile, two- three- and four-clustered, with deciduous bractæ at the base of each cluster; monopetalous, tubular, and the lip divided into four oval spreading segments. The stamens are alternately shorter; the four higher ones displaying their yellow anthers at the mouth of the tube: the germen is oval, supporting a flat stigma, on a very short style; and the fruit a red, pulpy drupe, containing one round seed. There is a variety of the mezereon with white flowers, and yellow fruit; but the medicinal effects of both are the same.

For medical use the roots are dug up in the autumn, after the leaves have fallen. The cuticle of the dried root is corrugated, and the inner bark has a white cotton-like appearance.

¹ Δαφνι, Theophrastus, Dioscorides.

² The Dublin College, in its Pharmacopœia has quoted *Eng. Bot.* 119. erroneously the plate referred to being that of *Daphne Laureola*, Spurge Laurel.

Qualities.—The inner bark of every part of this plant, when fresh is very acrid, capable of producing inflammation, vesication, and a discharge of serum when applied to the skin; and when chewed excites a considerable heat of the mouth and fauces, which continues for many hours afterwards. The fruit is equally acrid, acting as a corrosive poison, if eaten. The bark retains its acrimony when dried. It yields its virtues to water and vinegar. By digesting the bark in alcohol, then evaporating the liquid to separate the resin, and diluting the residual fluid with water; filtering and adding acetate of lead, Vauquelin obtained a copious yellow precipitate, which, when freed from the lead, by means of sulphuretted hydrogen gas, he found to be a vegetable principle, *sui generis*. He has given it the name of *Daphnin*.¹

Medical properties and uses.—It operates as a stimulating diaphoretic, increasing the general arterial action, and determining powerfully to the surface; but is apt to disorder the *primæ viæ*, and occasion vomiting and purging. It was long externally employed as a stimulus to ill-conditioned ulcers; and the recent bark macerated in vinegar, and applied to the skin, is recommended in France for producing and keeping up a serous discharge in chronic local affections. To form the issue, the bark must be renewed every night and morning; and afterwards once in twenty-four hours, to keep open the drain. Dr. Withering employed it successfully as a local stimulant in a case of difficulty of swallowing, occasioned by paralysis. Although the case was of three years' standing, the patient recovered the power of swallowing in about a month, by very frequently chewing thin slices of the root. For this purpose it should be sliced longitudinally, as the acrimony resides in the bark only, the woody fibre being nearly inert. Internally a decoction of this bark has been used against chronic rheumatism, scrofulous swellings, lepra, and some other cutaneous diseases; and till lately, it was considered as an anti-venereal remedy of great efficacy. The dose in substance is gr. j, to grs. x.

Officinal preparation. *Decoctum Daphnes Mezerei*. E.

DATURA. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* i. 1007.

Cl. 5. Ord. 1. Pentandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Solanaceæ Linn. Solaneæ Juss.

G. 377. Corolla funnel-shaped, plaited. Calyx tubular, angled, deciduous. Capsule with four valves.

Species 2. D. *Stramonium*. Thorn Apple, *Med. Bot.* 2d. edit. 197. t. 74. *Smith. Flor. Brit.* 253.

Officinal. DATURÆ STRAMONII HERBA. *Edin.* STRAMONIUM;

¹ *Ann. de Chim.* lxxxiv. p. 174.

HERBA. *Dub.* The herbaceous part of the Thorn Apple plant.

Syn. Pomme Epineuse (F.) Stechapfel (G.) Stramonio (I.)

This annual plant is a native of America, but is now naturalised to this country, and found growing on dunghills and by road-sides¹, from the fruit ejected from gardens; flowering in July and August. It rises about two feet in height, with a round stem, branching, and dichotomous above; spreading and leafy. The leaves, which spring from the forks of the stem on long round petioles, are large, of a dark green colour on the upper surface, and pale beneath, irregularly ovate-triangular in figure, sinuated, and unequal at the base. The flowers are large, axillary and solitary, on short erect peduncles. The calyx is about two inches in length, tubular, pentangular, and five-toothed: the corolla longer, of a white colour, funnel-shaped, and plaited; with the filaments, which support oblong flat anthers, adhering to the tube; and the style filiform, terminated with a thick club-shaped stigma. When the corolla and its included parts drop, the calyx also separates, except the base, which remains, and, becoming reflex, enlarges with the receptacle as a support to the fruit. The fruit is a large, fleshy, ovate-roundish, four-cornered capsule, beset with sharp awl-shaped spines; four-celled at the base, two-celled at the apex, and containing a great number of reniform compressed seeds. Both the leaves, capsule, and seeds are medicinally used.²

Qualities.—The whole herb has a narcotic, foetid odour, producing head-ach, and a bitterish nauseous taste; and gives to the saliva a deep green tinge when chewed. According to Wendenberg³, it contains gum (*mucus*?) and resin, a volatile matter (which I find to be carbonate of ammonia), and a narcotic principle. Its virtues are extracted both by water and alcohol. The watery infusion is transparent, with a very pale yellow hue, which is dissipated by acids, but very much deepened by the alkalies. It throws down whitish precipitates with acetate and superacetate of lead, and a black with nitrate of silver. Solution of sulphate of iron strikes a deep olive colour, and muriate of mercury renders it milky; but neither is precipitated till after a very considerable time.

Medical properties and uses.—Thorn apple is narcotic and stimulant. Baron Stoeck first recommended it as an internal remedy, in cases of mania and epilepsy; but, as Cullen remarks, he was less violent in his commendations of it than of

¹ Very common about London.

² According to Dr. W. Ainslie, this species of *Datura* is not found in India; but the *D. fustuosa* Dkétora (*Hind.*) *Dustura* (*Sans.*) is well known and medicinally used. *Mat. Med. of Hindostan.* 4to. p. 42.

³ *Dissertatio Medica de Stramonii Usu*, &c. Upsal. 4to.

the other narcotic plants which he introduced.² It was afterwards tried by other continental physicians with unequal success; particularly by Greding, who made the greatest number of trials of it. But the most decided experiments in its favour have been made by Dr. Barton of America, who regards it as a remedy of great efficacy. He found that when the dose of the dried herb was gradually increased to thirty grains, it dilated the pupil, and produced paralysis of the eye-lids; effects which were removed by a blister. Cataplasms of the bruised fresh leaves have been successfully used as an application to inflammatory tumours, and for discussing masses of indurated milk in the breasts of nurses: and an ointment made with the powdered leaves allays the pain of hæmorrhoids. Smoking the plant in the manner of tobacco, affords relief in the paroxysm of spasmodic asthma; a practice introduced into England from Ceylon. The inspissated expressed juice of the leaves has been usually given; and the extract has been lately found almost specific in severe chronic pains. The root is given by the native practitioners in the Carnatic, in violent head-achs. Hufeland recommends the form of tincture. The dose of the extract at first should not exceed grs. ss, twice a day; increasing the quantity gradually, until grs. xii. be taken in twenty-four hours.

Several instances of the fatal effects of stramonium, when eaten by mistake, are recorded by authors.³ It produces delirium, stupor, convulsions, furious madness, paralysis, cold sweats, and death. As these effects depend on the narcotic principle, the best antidote is vinegar, after the stomach has been emptied.

DAUCUS. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* i. 1389.

Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. Ord. Umbellatæ.

G. 53. Cor. somewhat rayed. Flor. of the disk abortive. Fruit hispid with hair.

Species 1. D. Carota.³ Common Carrot. *Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 130. t. 50. *Smith Flora Brit.* 300.

Officinal. DAUCI (*hortensis*) RADIX. — (*agrestis*) SEMINA. Lond.

DAUCI CAROTÆ RADIX. Edin. DAUCUS SYLVESTRIS; SEMINA.

Dub. The root of the cultivated Carrot, and the seed of Wild Carrot.

Syn. Carotte (F.) Karotte; Mohrrübe (G.) Carota (L.) Zanahoria (S.) Istifleen (Arab.) Gajer (H.) Garjara (San.)

The carrot is a biennial indigenous plant. In its wild state it is found abundantly in pastures and on hills⁴; flowering in

¹ *Materia Medica*, ii. 281.

² It is said to be sometimes used by the Turks, instead of opium, or as a substitute for wine; and the Chinese infuse the seeds in beer. *Spratt's Hist. of the Roy. Soc.* 162.

³ *Scaphulias agrestis*, Dioscoridis.

⁴ We have seen it in great abundance on the range of chalk hills which overlook Rye-gate in Surry.

June and July. It is cultivated for culinary purposes and feeding cattle. The root is spindle-shaped, fleshy, and of a yellow colour; throwing up a round furrowed stem, which rises about two feet in height, and sends off long, erect, naked, floriferous branches. The leaves are large, petiolated, thrice-pinnate, cleft, and hairy. The flowers are in many-rayed compound umbels, flat on the top, and spreading, but after the flowering season they become condensed in a concave form. The involucre consists of several narrow trifid leaves; the involucrel is more commonly simple. The marginal flowers are white or yellow; the central, which are abortive, often of a dark blood colour. The seeds are in pairs, egg-shaped, convex, rough and bristled on one side, and flat on the other. These appearances are changed by cultivation, which also increases the size and the nutritious matter of the root.¹

Qualities. — The sensible qualities of the root of the cultivated carrot are well known. It contains chiefly mucilage and sugar. The seeds of the wild variety have an aromatic odour, and a warm pungent taste; qualities depending on an essential oil, which may be separated by distillation with water.

Medical properties and uses. — The root of the garden carrot is emollient and antiseptic: and is successfully used when boiled and beaten to a pulp, as a poultice to correct the discharge of foetid and ill-conditioned sores; and to allay the pain of carcinomatous and phagedenic ulcers. The seeds are carminative and diuretic; and hence useful in flatulent cases; but they possess no efficacy in gravel for which they have been extolled.²

The dose of the bruised seed is from ʒj to ʒj, or more.

DELPHINIUM. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* ii. 1226.

Cl. 13. Ord. 3. Polyandria Trigynia. *Nat. ord.* Multisiliquæ *Linna.*
Ranunculaceæ Juss.

G. 1061. Cal. none. Pet. five. Nect. bifid, horned behind. Pods 3 or 1.

*** Three-capsuled.

Spec. 13. D. *Staphisagria*.³ *Staves Acre. Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 471.
t. 168.

Officinal. STAPHISAGRIÆ SEMINA. *Lond. Dub.* DELPHINII STAPHISAGRIÆ SEMINA. *Edin.* *Staves Acre seeds.*

Syn. Staphisagre, (F.) Stephanskraut *laus kerner*, (G.) Staphisagria, (I.) Piojenta, (S.)

This species of larkspur is a biennial plant, a native of the south of Europe, flowering from June to August. It is a handsome plant, from one to two feet in height, with a downy, erect, purplish, simple stem; and palmated leaves, the lobes of which are five or seven in number, of a pale green colour, oblong, ovate,

¹ Carrots are seldom sufficiently boiled; but when well boiled, they are very digestible and nutritious.

² The red central flowers of the umbels have been extolled in epilepsy.

³ *Staphis agria*, Dioscoridis.

and sometimes acutely indented. The flowers are of a blue or purplish colour, in an open terminal spike, and supported on long flower-stalks; the uppermost petal projected backwards so as to form a hollow spur, which encloses two spurs of the superior leaflets of the nectary. The filaments are about twenty and short, bearing large yellow anthers; the germens three, close together, tapering, downy, and crowned with short filiform styles, having simple stigmas. The seeds are rough, brown, triangular, and contained in straight oblong capsules. They are usually imported from Italy; for although the plant is occasionally reared in our gardens¹, yet it is difficult to preserve it through the winter, so as to enable it to perfect its seed.

Qualities.—Staves acre seeds have very little odour, but that little is disagreeable, their taste is bitter, acrid, and hot. They are yellowish within, and covered with a rough blackish cuticle. Their virtues are partially extracted by water, and completely by alcohol.

Medical properties and uses.—These seeds are emetic and cathartic; but their operation is so violent that they are never internally administered. Owing to their stimulating powerfully the salivary gland, when chewed, they have been used as a masticatory in toothach; but they are chiefly employed in powder, mixed with hair powder for destroying pediculi of the head.

DIANTHUS.² *Spec. Plant. Willd.* ii. 671.

Cl. 10. *Ord.* 2. Decandria Digynia. *Nat. Ord.* Caryophyllei Linn. Caryophyllæ Juss.

G. 893. *Calyx* cylindrical, one-leaved; with four scales at the base, *Petals* five, with claws. *Capsule* cylindrical, one-celled.

** *Flowers* solitary, many on the same stem.

Species 9. *D. Caryophyllus.* Clove Pink, or Gillyflower.

Med. Bot. 2d ed. 579. *t.* 205. *Smith Flor. Brit.* 461. *Eng. Bot.* 214.

Officinal. DIANTHI CARYOPHYLLI FLORES. *Edin.* CARYO-

PHYLLUM RUBRUM; FLORES. *Dub.* Flowers of the Clove Pink.

Syn. Giroflée musquée, (F.) Gewürzhafte riechende Gartennelke (G.) Garofano, (I.) Clavel, (S.)

This is a perennial plant, a native of Italy, but found growing wild on ruined walls, as those of Rochester, Deal, and other old castles in England, flowering in July.³ It is cultivated in gardens, for medicinal use; in which case the flowers become full, and improve their native odour. The root is firm, and fibrous. The stems, which rise from among tufts of channelled linear glaucous leaves, that are finely toothed a little above the base, but entire and smooth towards the apex, are erect,

¹ It was first cultivated in England by Gerard in 1596.

² From *Διὸς ἄνθος*, The flower of Jove; yet it was unknown to the ancients.

³ Ray and Hudson suppose it to be an outcast of gardens, and not an indigenous plant of England.

branched, and panicled, bearing many solitary flowers. The whole herb is glaucous. The calyx is striated, tubular, five-cleft, of a pale green colour, with four rhomboid, pointed scales at its base, about one-fourth of its length: the petals vary in colour from a pale flesh red to the deepest carnation; are unequally crenated, smooth at the orifice, with long narrow whitish claws. The stamens are often short and abortive; the styles long, recurved, and downy on the upper side.

The varieties of this species of *Dianthus* produced by horticulturists are very numerous. For medicinal use those should be chosen which have the richest colour, and most spicy odour. The petals must be picked when the flower is fully blown.

Qualities—The odour of the petals is fragrant and aromatic, resembling that of the clove spice, the taste slightly bitter, and subastringent. Both water and alcohol extract their sensible qualities; and they yield an essential oil by distillation with water. The infusion strikes a black colour with sulphate of iron; acids redden its colour; and alkalies change it to green.

Medical properties and uses.—Notwithstanding the testimony of our forefathers in favour of the efficacy of these flowers in nervous affections, modern practitioners value them merely for their sensible qualities; and employ them only to give a pleasant flavour and fine colour to a syrup, which is a pleasant vehicle for the exhibition of more active medicines.

Official preparation. *Syrupus Dianthi Caryophylli*. E. D.

DIGITALIS. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* iii. 283.

Cl. 14. Ord. 2. Didynamia Angiospermia. Nat. Ord. Luridæ Linn. Scrophulariæ Juss.

G. 1155. Cal. five-parted. Corolla bell-shaped, five-cleft, bell-shaped. Capsule ovate, 2-celled.

Spec. 1. D. *purpurea*. Purple Foxglove.¹ *Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 218. t. 76. *Smith Flora Brit.* 665. *Eng. Bot.* 1297. *Withering's Account of Foxglove.*

Official. **DIGITALIS FOLIA.** *Lond. Dub.* **DIGITALIS PURPUREÆ FOLIA.** *Edin.* Foxglove leaves.

Syn. Grande Digitalis (F.) Fingerhut (G.) Digitale Porporina (I.) Dedalera purpurea (S.)

Foxglove is an indigenous biennial plant, found growing generally on the sides of hills, or where the soil is dry, sandy or gravelly; flowering from the middle of June to nearly the middle of August. The root is knotty and fibrous, sending up an erect stem about four feet in height; round, downy, and leafy. The lower leaves are in tufts, large, about eight inches in length, and three in breadth, ovate and pointed, with bordered fleshy peduncles: the upper or stem leaves are alternate, sparse, and lanceolate; and both kinds have bluntly serrated,

¹ It was named *Digitalis* by Fuchsius, the first author who notices its medical properties, from the German name Fingerhut, a finger stole.

nearly crenate, edges, and wrinkled velvety surfaces; with the upper surface of a beautiful deep green colour, and the under paler and more downy. The flowers, which are numerous, are attached on footstalks to one side of the upper part of the stem, so as to allow them to hang down, and form a very elegant terminal spike. At the base of each footstalk is a sessile pointed floral leaf. The uppermost segment of the calyx is narrower than the other four; the corolla is monopetalous, of an oblong bell-shape, and about the size of the little finger of an ordinary glove; bellying on the lower side, with a short tubular base. The upper lip is slightly cloven, and more reflected than the under, which is larger. The corolla is guarded by long hairs at the mouth; its general colour is a bright pinkish purple, with the tube white, and the bellying part sprinkled on the inside with dark purple spots on a white ground, which give to the outside a speckled appearance. The filaments are white, curved, bearing large oval yellow anthers; the germen is pointed, supporting a simple style with the apex cloven. The seed-vessel, which is a pyramidal capsule with a double partition produced by the inflected margins of the valves¹, contains many small ferrugineous, punctated seeds.

The leaves are the parts of the plant medicinally used. They should be gathered when the plant is in flower, and those only which are fresh selected. "The leaf-stalks and midrib should be rejected, and the remaining part should be dried either in the sun-shine, or on a tin-pan or pewter dish before the fire, or the plant be hung up, each leaf separate, in a warm kitchen." Practitioners ought annually to obtain a supply of the recent leaves, in the month of July, and dry them themselves; as in the herb-shops they are often so ill dried as to appear black, in which state they are useless. The powder should be kept in closely stopped opaque phials.

Qualities. — Recent foxglove leaves are inodorous; but in the dried state they have a slight narcotic odour, and a bitter nauseous taste. Both water and alcohol extract their virtues. The watery infusion has a pale olive green colour, with the unpleasant odour and taste of the plant. It does not precipitate solutions of galls, tartarized antimony, nor sulphate of iron which only deepens its colour; but produces a yellowish precipitate with muriate of mercury, and a blackish violet very copious one with nitrate of silver. The dry powder, which should have a beautiful green colour, moistened and triturated with lime or calcined magnesia, and a glass rod dipped in muriatic acid held over it, exhibits copious white fumes, proving the presence of ammonia. The presence of ammonia is also appa-

¹ *Gartner de Fructibus*, &c. i. 247. t. 53. f. 6.

rent in the tincture; which is rendered milky by water.¹ Ten grains of the powder macerated in f 3fs of sulphuric ether lost three grains of its weight, and yielded all its colour to the ether; and the ethereal tincture, on being evaporated on water, left a pellicle of dark-green unctuous resinous matter, whilst some yellowish extractive was dissolved in the water, and precipitated afterwards by oxymuriatic acid. From this imperfect analysis, foxglove appears to contain ammonia, extractive, and a pea-green resinous matter in which its narcotic power resides.

Medical properties and uses.—Digitalis is directly sedative, and diuretic. It weakens the force of all the vital functions; and by a proper exhibition of it, the frequency of the pulse may be diminished any number of pulsations, and regulated at the pleasure of the practitioner; whilst at the same time it admits, to a certain extent, of the employment of such medicines as increase the firmness of the arterial action, and give tone to the habit. When given to the full extent of which the system can admit, the pulse intermits, and vertigo, indistinct vision, and nausea with vomiting, or purging, occur; and if after these indications the quantity be still increased, or if any considerable portion of the recent herb be inconsiderately swallowed, it produces delirium, hiccough, cold sweats, convulsions, syncope, and death. It is supposed, notwithstanding its sedative effects are acknowledged, to increase the action of the absorbent system; but although the discharge of urine is very considerably increased during its use, and the load of water with which the body is oppressed in dropsies be thrown off, yet, it is not easy to conceive how a direct sedative can operate as a stimulant; and therefore the *modus operandi* of foxglove, in producing its diuretic effect, may be regarded as still unexplained.²

As a *sedative* foxglove was early used in some acute diseases, but its powers were not understood. It is now efficaciously employed in inflammatory diseases; in active hæmorrhages, particularly from the uterine vessels, when the pulse is sharp, throbbing, and frequent; in mania; in scrofula; and in most cases of increased vascular action, or in which it is essential to lessen the usual impetus of the blood, as in aneurism.

¹ Destouches, a French chemist, who analysed Foxglove, obtained also much carbonate of ammonia by distilling the aqueous extract. He obtained besides sulphate of potash and of lime, phosphate of lime, carbonates of lime, and of potash, and acetate of ammonia.

² This term implies, as I understand it, any substance which diminishes the action of the heart and arteries, without first increasing it.

³ Dr. Baillon observed a curious effect of posture in ascertaining the real effects of digitalis on the pulse. When by gradually increased doses he took it to the extent of grs. vj. in the day, the pulse fell to 40 from 110. But when it was actually at 40, the erect posture would raise it to 100; when sitting it was 72, and when lying down 40. He observed the same effect in several patients to whom he gave it. — *Edin. Med. and Surgical Journal*, iii. 271.

Its beneficial effects in phthisis pulmonalis were known so early as 1710; and passing experience confirms the justness of the praises bestowed on it by a writer of that period.¹ Dr. Ferriar found its utility in this complaint much increased by combining it with myrrh and sulphate of iron.² Its use has also been extended to venereal ulcerations, chronic rheumatism, hooping-cough, and some spasmodic affections: and as an external application Hufeland recommends it to be used in the form of fomentation for dispelling glandular swellings.

As a *diuretic* the use of foxglove was introduced by Dr. Withering in 1775.³ He found that its beneficial effects in dropsies were more certainly obtained in those constitutions in which there is a laxity of fibre, pale countenance, feeble intermitting pulse, and cold skin; and where the swelling easily pits. But in florid habits, with great strength, tense fibre, and a hot dry skin, its sedative effect is perceived, but no diuresis follows. "If the belly in ascites be tense, hard, and circumscribed; or the limbs in anasarca be solid and resisting, we have but little hope."⁴ Experience has confirmed these judicious observations; and it is found that where this favourable state does not exist, it may be produced by bleeding, and the free use of neutral salts, calomel, and squill, all of which lower the system. The diuretic effect is checked when much nausea is present; and Withering says purging also checks it; but I have not found this to be the case. The kinds of dropsy in which its effects are most useful, are ascites, anasarca, hydrothorax, and that species of dropsy which succeeds parturition, where the legs and thighs swell, become pale and semi-transparent, with pain in both groins. It has also been found of the greatest service when conjoined with nitrous acid, in the dropsy which occurs in broken-down constitutions, that have been long harassed by mercury.⁵ Digitalis will not cure a dropsy attended with palsy, unsound viscera, or other complications of disease; but by allaying the urgency of the symptoms it gains time for other medicines to act. No benefit has hitherto been obtained from its use in hydatids, and hydrocephalus.

Foxglove is administered in substance, or in decoction, or the watery infusion, or in tincture (see *Preparations*). When given in substance, it is frequently combined with aromatics, soap, or ammoniacum; and most advantageously with calomel and opium, when it is required only to produce its diuretic ef-

¹ Salmon. See *The Edin. Med. and Surg. Journal*, v. 303.

² *Essay on the Medical Properties of Digitalis*.

³ He was induced to try it from finding it the active ingredient in a family receipt for the cure of dropsy, regarding which his opinion was asked.

⁴ *Withering's Account*, &c. 189.

⁵ Carmichael on Diseases which have been confounded with Syphilis, 4to. p. 53-6.

fects. It is always proper to begin with a dose not exceeding gr. j. of the powdered leaves given in a pill, twice a day; and gradually to increase it till its effects are apparent either on the kidneys, the stomach, the pulse, or the bowels. The medicine must then be discontinued; but in dropsy it may be repeated again after an interval, if the whole of the water be not evacuated. During its use diluents are useful and necessary; and immediately it is discontinued the strength should be recruited by generous food, steel, and cordial tonics. The deleterious effects of an overdose are to be counteracted by cordials, as brandy, mint tea, and opium; and when these are not sufficient, by blisters.

Official preparations. *Decoctum Digitalis*. D. *Infusum Digitalis*. L. E. *Tinctura Digitalis*. L. E. D.

DOLICHOS. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* iii. 1037.

Cl. 17. *Ord.* 4. *Diadelphia Decandria*. *Nat. Ord.* *Papilionaceæ* *Linn.* *Leguminosæ* *Juss.*

G. 1349. At the base of the standard, two oblong parallel scales, compressing the wings underneath.

* *Twining.*

Sp. 16. *D. pruriens*. Cowhage. *Med. Bot.* 2d. ed. 422. t. 153. *Chamberlaine's Practical Treatise on the Efficacy of Stizolobium or Cowhage.*

Off. * **DOLICHI PUBES.** **DOLICHI PRURIENTIS PUBES.** *Edin.*

DOLICHES SETÆ LEGUMINUM. *Dub.* The hairs of the Dolichos pod.

Syn. *Kiwách* (H.) *Capicach'hu* (San.)

This is a perennial climbing plant, a native of America, and the East and West Indies. In Bengal, where it is named *Cad-juct*, it flowers in the cool months from September to March. The root is fibrous; the stem herbaceous, cylindrical, voluble, climbing, and branching; with ternate leaves, on footstalks from six to fourteen inches long, given off alternately at the distance of a foot from each other. The central leaflet is rhomboidal, the two lateral ones oblique, and all of them smooth on the upper surface, and hairy beneath. The flowers are papilionaceous, of a blood colour, peduncled, in pendulous solitary spikes, which hang from the axillæ of the leaves. The fruit is a coriaceous pod about four or five inches long, curved like the letter *f*, thickly covered with bristly short brown hairs; and containing three or five oval, compressed seeds.

The pods we receive are brought from the West Indies. If incautiously touched, the spiculæ with which they are beset separate easily, and, sticking in the fingers, occasion the most intolerable itching.

Medical properties and uses. — The spiculæ of dolichos pods operate as a mechanical anthelmintic. They have been found particularly useful in expelling the round worm, *lumbricus teres*, the spiculæ irritating, and aiding its expulsion, and wounding

M

it, without affecting the intestines. The best mode of preparing the remedy, is to dip the pods in syrup or molasses, and then, with a knife, to scrape off the hairs along with the syrup. When the mixture attains the thickness of honey, it is sufficiently impregnated with the hairs, and is fit for use.

The dose of this mixture, for a child of three or four years old, is a tea-spoonful, given in the morning for three days, and then followed by a brisk cathartic.

DORSTENIA. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* i. 682.

Cl. 4. *Ord.* 1. Tetrandria Monogynia. *Nat. Ord.* Scabridæ Linn. Urticæ Juss.

G. 244. *Receptacle* common, one-leafed, fleshy, in which solitary seeds are nestled (or placed in sockets without attachment.)

Spec. 5. *D. Contrajerva.* *Contrayerva.* *Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 705. 240.

Officinal. CONTRAJERVÆ RADIX. *Lond.* DORSTENIÆ CONTRAJERVÆ RADIX. *Edin.* Contrajerva Root.

Syn. Contrajerva (*E.*) Giftwurzel (*G.*) Contrajerva (*L.*) Contrahierba (*S.*)

This is a perennial plant, a native of Peru, Mexico, and some of the West India islands. The root is fusiform, knotty, and branching, compact, furnished with many rough fibres; externally of a brown colour, and internally whitish. It sends up several leaves, which are about four inches in length and the same in breadth; of an irregular shape, but in general deeply lacinated into five or seven obtuse parts; and placed on long radical footstalks, winged towards the leaves. The fructification, which is remarkable, and on radical stalks or scapes which rise about four inches high, is a fleshy receptacle, shaped like an animal placenta, about an inch long, and three-fourths of an inch broad, placed vertically: and containing on its upper surface very small, scarcely conspicuous flowers, situated closely together, immersed in the receptacle, and occupying the whole of its disc. The capsule possesses an elastic power when ripe, by which the seeds are thrown out with considerable force.

Monardus is the first author who mentions this root, which, he says, is called Contrajerva¹ by the Spanish Indians, on account of its alexipharmic qualities. Dr. Houston², however, asserted that the officinal contrajerva was the roots of two other species of Dorstenia, the *D. Houstonia* and *D. Drakena* of Willdenow; but the British Colleges follow the authority of Linnæus. It is brought to this country from the West Indies, packed in bales; in pieces of about two inches long.

Qualities. — Contrajerva root has a peculiar, but not unpleasant odour, and a bitterish, warm taste, leaving a pretty lasting impression on the tongue. It preserves its qualities when

¹ The Spanish, for the English word *antidote* is *contrahierba*.

² *Phil. Trans.* No. 421. p. 195.

dried; and in the state of powder. Both water and alcohol, assisted by heat, extract its virtues. The watery decoction is of a dark brownish red colour, and exceedingly mucilaginous. — The alcoholic tincture reddens litmus paper, is not altered by a solution of sulphate of iron, but is precipitated by water.

Medical properties and uses. — This root is a stimulant sudorific and tonic. Huxham and Pringle first pointed it out as a remedy well suited to fevers of a typhoid type, and it is often employed in malignant eruptive diseases, dysentery, and in some kinds of diarrhoea. It is also useful in atonic gout, chronic rheumatism, and the fever attending dentition in weak infants.

The dose of the powdered root is from grs. v. to ʒj; but it is seldom used alone.

Officinal preparation. *Pulv. Contrajervæ compositus*. L.

DRYOBALANOPS. *Asiatick Researches*, vol. xii. p. 539. Cl. 13. Ord. 1. Polyandria Monogynia. Nat. Ord. Guttiferæ Juss. *G. nora*. Calyx one-leafed, permanent; enlarged into a gibbous cup, with five ligulate long scariose wings. Corolla five petalled. Capsule superior, one celled, three valved, seed solitary. Embryo inverse, without perisperm.

Species. D. *Camphora*. *Asiatick Res.* vol. xii. p. 539. Plate 4.

Officinal. CAMPHORA. Lond. Edin. CAMPHORA; RESINA. Dub. Camphor.

Syn. Camphire (F.) Der Kampfer (G.) Canfora (I.) Alcanfor (S.) Cafoor (Arab.) Carpoorum (Tam.) Carphura (San.)

That the Camphor brought to Europe, from the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, is not the product of the *Laurus Camphora*, was remarked by Kœmpfer¹; but no accurate description has yet been given of the tree which yields it. Mr. H. T. Colebrooke has, however, lately been enabled to determine the genus to which it belongs, and to which we have referred it, from the examination of some seeds in a very perfect state, sent from Tapanooly to Calcutta.

The Dryobalanops *Camphora* is a native of forests on the north-western coast of Sumatra: and especially in the vicinity of Tapanooly. It is stated by Mr. Prince to be found in abundance from the back of Ayer Bongey, as far north as Bacougan, a distance of 250 miles. It grows to a great height, and the trunk, which is arboreous and covered with a brownish bark, often measures six or seven feet in diameter. The leaves are opposite below and alternate above, elliptical, obtusely acuminate, or rather beaked, parallel veined, entire, smooth; 3.7 inches long, 1.2 broad, and supported on short petioles; with subulate, caducous stipules in pairs. The perianth is a

¹ "Camphoram naturalem et crystallinam perquam pretiosam ac rarum impertitus arbor in Sumatra et Borneo insulis. Sed hæc arbor ex Daphneo sanguine non est." *Amen. Exot.* p. 773.

one-leafed, five-parted, persistent capsule, which is superior, ovate, woody, fibrous, longitudinally furrowed, embraced at the base by the calycine hemispherical cup, and surrounded by its enlarged leaflets, which are converted into remote, foliaceous, spatulate, rigid, reflex wings: one-celled and three-valved. The seed is solitary, conforming to the cavity of the capsule; and has a strong terebinthinate fragrance.

The Camphor forms in the heart of the tree, occupying portions of a foot and a foot and a half long, at certain distances: but the younger trees yield oil only, which has nearly the same properties as the camphor, and would ultimately be converted into the concrete substance. The natives, in searching for the camphor, make a deep incision in the trunk, about 14 or 18 feet from the ground, with a *billing* or Malay axe; and when it is discovered they fell the tree, and cut it intounks of a fathom long, which are again split. The camphor is found in a concrete state, and resembles whitish flakes in perpendicular layers, occupying a space the thickness of a man's arm. A middling sized tree will yield nearly eleven pounds, and a large tree double that quantity.

For the *qualities and medical properties* of Camphor. See *Laurus Camphora*.

ELETTARIA. *Maton, Trans. of the Linnean Society, vol. x. part. 2d.*

Cl. 1. Ord. 1. Monandria Monogynia. *Nat. ord. Scitamineæ Linn. Spec. E. Cardamomum.* The Cardamom Elettaria. *Van Rhee, (Elettari.) Hort. Malabar. vol. ix. t. 4, 5. Linnean Trans. vol. x. part 2d. Roxburgh. Ind. p. 3. N. 226. Asiatick Res. v. xi. p. 355.*

Official. CARDAMOMI SEMINA. *Lond.* AMOMI REPENTIS SEMINA. *Edin.* CARDAMOMUM MINUS; SEMINA. *Dub.* Lesser Cardamom Seeds.

Syn. Petit Cardamome (*F.*) Kleine Kardamomen (*G.*) Amomo minore (*L.*) Kukulah, Hal (*Arab.*) Purbi and Guzrate Cláchi (*H.*) Elá (*San.*)

The plant which produces these seeds is a native of India, growing on the mountains above Cochin and Calicut; in shady places on the declivities, and in the valleys. The cultivated plant does not flower till it is four years old. It rises twelve feet in height. The root is oblong, jointed, tortuous, of a whitish colour, and sending off numerous fibres. The stems which emerge from the root are simple stripes, like a reed, round, smooth, and the thickness of the human thumb. The leaves are alternate and sheathing, about four spans in length; broad, green, and striated with parallel veins; and have a strong sub-acrid, aromatic taste and odour. The midrib of the leaf on the upper surface is pale green; on the under a much deeper green.

* The camphor thus found, is called by the natives *Se Tantong*.