

seeds and to welcome bees and insects—a special y solar flower, for she lives but for one day: when the sun goes down at night she dies. But on the long trailing stem the bud above will take her place, and be a blossom on the morrow. Gerard says they are not fit for medicine, but unprofitable plants, hurtful to all they grow near. But we, who look at their beauty, feel there must be some good in them. To me they have ever been an emblem of those who make the best of their circumstances, and the models of adaptability, since I saw them once at Versailles about this season of the year. The approach to the place all round was paved with squared greenstones about six inches square, not very close together, but close enough, and in the cracks between the stones this little plant had rooted herself, and managed to confine her aspiring energies to her possibilities. But the whole great court was gay-carpeted with the beautiful pink blossoms, even where carriages might and did drive and foot-passengers walk.

Other flowers of the season grow near—the Shepherd's Needle, with its delicate white flowers and long pointed seeds; the Heart's Ease or Wild Pansy, the origin of our cultivated varieties ("There's Pansies, that's for thoughts," says Shakespeare); the common Agrimony, with its fine terminating bunches of yellow flowers; the Hedge Mustard, valuable especially for poultices; and the beautiful blue blooms of the wild Chicory still brighten the hedges. The Chicory is a perennial plant, with spreading branches and milky juice; the lower leaves are lion-toothed, the upper ones pinnate; the stems are not graceful, but the lovely blue of the flower attracts the passers-by. This is the origin of the cultivated Chicory; the roots are boiled and eaten, or dried and used as coffee. The Gentians, pink, blue, and yellow, with their beautiful flowers set on their straight, stiff stalks, adorn the fields in many districts of England. All the species are medicinal and tonic, but the best species grows in Switzerland or France. Wherever it abounds, the pastures are untouched by cattle, and large tracts of land which the herdsman would value remain unused because of the Gentian. The cattle do not like its bitterness, but that is the very property which gives it value. In some districts people of poor appetite take an infusion of gentian every morning at waking, in order to make them hungry. The root also contains an abundance of sugar, and a spirit is distilled from it called "bitter snaps," which the peasants of the Swiss Alps drink under the impression that it will preserve them from the injurious effects of fogs and damps. The Strong-scented wild Lettuce yields an acrid and bitter juice that resembles opium, and possesses its narcotic qualities with less evil effects. The ancient poets fable that Venus, when inconsolable for the loss of Adonis, threw herself on a bed of wild Lettuces growing among classic shades, in the hope of obtaining sleep. In this month the Ivy flowers, and our dear old friend the Honey-suckle blooms for a second time, though there is hardly any summer or autumn month in which one cannot find some stray blossoms of this flower, the scent of which is acknowledged by all to be the most delicious, especially towards the evening. But the special and peculiar September flower is the Autumn Crocus, which seems to thrive better in the Western and Midland counties than in the Eastern. There are several varieties. The Crocus proper is of a bright

purple, and its anthers orange-yellow. It should be noted that the Crocus has only three stamens and one style, and that it is quite innocuous. But the Meadow Saffron, or Colchicum, which a careless observer might think the same plant, has six stamens and six pistils, and has very powerful medicinal qualities, for which great quantities of the roots, blossoms, and seeds of the plant are annually gathered. Saffron was formerly much valued as a medicine and condiment, and is still so used in the East. The ancients esteemed it as a perfume, and so high an opinion of its cheering and stimulating powers was once prevalent that when a man was merry he was said to have "slept upon a bag of Saffron." It was called Colchicum from the ancient Colchis, a district where it grew abundantly. Among our forefathers also it was used as a dye with which to dye underlinen, nominally to make it more healthy, but also, doubtless, to hide some of the grey tints that would gather on pure white during the long intervals between the changing and the washing of linen garments in those days. The purple Martagon Lily too, another species of the same genus, blooms during this month, chiefly in copses in Surrey. Everywhere we begin to see the autumn tints—

"The leaves are growing yellow,
Or turning into red,
And the ripe and golden barley
Is hanging down its head."

Come out, in September, and breathe the fresh, bracing air, that will strengthen you to bear the wear and strain of the weary winter months.

WOMEN.

Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., and Miss Violet McLaren, M.D., Ch.B., have been elected to the Council of the Society for the Study of Inebriety. By the constitution of the Society the governing body must consist of duly qualified medical practitioners, and these are the first women doctors to be appointed to a seat on the Council since the formation of the Society in 1884.

While an increasing number of women are entering the medical profession in this country, the number so far is still comparatively small. Among the wild and scattered population of Russia there is an inexhaustible field for them. They have enormous practices in the great towns, and are largely employed by the municipalities.

Madame Gaussel has been appointed *Chef de Clinique* in the Obstetrical and Gynecological Department of the University of Montpellier. This is, says the *British Medical Journal*, the first time an appointment of such importance has been conferred on a woman in France.

Miss Mary C. Lowell, M.D., of Boston, is said to be the only woman in the world who is entitled to practise the professions of medicine and law by virtue of the possession of degrees in those faculties. She was the first woman Assistant Superintendent of the Maine State Hospital for the Insane. After holding this position for five years, she visited the hospitals of various European capitals. The love of study prompted her to elect a course in law, and it is said to be her intention to obtain two more degrees—Bachelor in Jurisprudence and Master in Chemistry.

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