

Comparing the White Pine with other European and a few American Conifers, I find the following results in regard to specific gravity and resinosity of the wood:

	Specific Gravity (Water 100.)	Per cent. of resin in 100 parts (by weight of dry wood.)
(1.) Long-leaved pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>), sent to Europe as pitch-pine - - -	78	11.1
(2.) Larch, grown in Tyrol and known as the best and most durable of all European Conifers - - - - -	62	2.8
(3.) Wood of the same tree grown in the milder climate of the plains - - -	55	4.8
(4.) Common European pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>), 113 years old - - - - -	48	5.
(5.) Common European pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>), 235 years old - - - - -	47	4.9
(6.) Red pine (<i>Pinus resinosa</i>), grown in Minnesota - - - - -	41	6.
(7.) European spruce (<i>Picea excelsa</i>), - - -	41	1.6
(8.) " fir (<i>Abies pectinata</i>), - - -	39	1.
(9.) White pine (grown in America), 130 years old - - - - -	39	7.5
(10.) White pine (grown in Bavaria), 80 years old - - - - -	38	6.7

If we arrange the different trees according to the amount of resin found in their heart-wood we have the following order:

- (1.) *Pinus palustris* (as representing the section with 3 needles in one sheath).
- (2.) " *Strobus* - - - - - 5 " " "
- (3.) " *sylvestris* and *resinosa* - 2 " " "
- (4.) The Larch (representing the genus *Larix*).
- (5.) " Spruce " " "*Picea*).
- (6.) " Fir " " "*Abies*).

There cannot be the slightest doubt that the wood of the European Larch is far more durable than that of the European Pine and of the White Pine; still the amount of resin is hardly half as great in a Larch as in a Pine; even the wood of European Spruce is superior in durability to that of the White Pine. From this fact we are bound to say that the specific gravity or the substances that give to the heart-wood its color, are more important factors in determining the durability of a coniferous wood than the amount of resin. I think that the order of resinosity, viz.: *Pinus*, *Larix*, *Picea*, *Abies*, holds good not only for the European, but also for the American representatives of these genera.

H. Mayr.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

I have been consulted recently by one of our largest dealers in flowers for an inflammation of the skin of the hands and face. The appearances which these parts presented indicated a *dermatitis venenata* of an eczematous type, and the patient expressed the opinion also that the inflammation had been caused by contact with some "poisonous" plant in his shop. He stated, moreover, that some of his assistants were affected in a similar way. The trouble manifested itself in all of them for the first time within a few weeks, and in his own case there had been three distinct recurrences of it within that period. His impression was that it had begun about the time that he had been handling large quantities of *Acacia pubescens* and *Primula obconica*, and he suspected one of these plants to be the cause of the inflammation.

I visited the shop, and found one of the salesmen presenting a similar disorder of the face and hands. The former was red, somewhat swollen, and irritable, and the latter exhibited a papular eruption. Another salesman stated that his face had been irritated, but it presented slight visible changes. There were several other employees in the establishment, whose skins were unaffected. I was told by some of them that it was a well-known trick in green-houses to shake a plant of *Acacia pubescens* over a green workman to excite an itching of the skin. *Primula obconica* was the only plant sold for the first time this season, and large quantities of this had been handled. I made a list of the plants which were then, or had been during the preceding month, for sale in the shop. They were:

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| <i>Acacia pubescens</i> . | Calceolaria. |
| Amaryllis, two varieties. | Calendula. |
| Anemone, Roman (<i>A. hortensis</i>). | Calla. |
| Azaleas. | Camellia. |
| Bouvardia. | Cineraria. |
| | Coreopsis. |

- Cyclamen.
- Cypripedium insigne*.
- " *Harrisii*.
- Cytisus.
- Daisy (*Bellis*).
- Erica.
- Ferns.
- Foliage plants.
- Freesia.
- Galax (leaves).
- Hyacinths.
- Hydrangeas.
- Jonquils.
- Lilium longiflorum*.
- " *candidum*.
- " *Harrisii*.

- Lily-of-Valley.
- Marguerite (*Chrysanthemum frutescens*).
- Mignonette.
- Narcissus.
- Nasturtium.
- Pansy.
- Pink.
- Polyanthus.
- Primulas.
- Roses.
- Smilax.
- Spiraea Japonica*.
- Tulips.
- Violets.
- Wall Flowers.

In my work on "Dermatitis Venenata," recently published, I give a list of eighty-six genera of plants, one or more species of which have been known, on good authority, to produce some degree of inflammation of the skin by contact, but in the collection above named there was but one species which finds a place in my list, viz., *Tropaeolum majus*, or Garden Nasturtium. This I have known, in a few instances, to give rise to a severe inflammation of the skin of persons handling it, although it is ordinarily innocuous. It had been always handled, however, by all the persons affected in this instance with impunity. The only other plants above named, which are closely allied to species known to be "poisonous," are the Anemone, *Cypripedium* and Marguerite. Several of the Anemones, especially *A. nemorosa*, *A. patens*, and *A. hortensis*, possess irritative properties, and are even capable of vesicating the skin, but I have no knowledge of such action on the part of that in question. I know, on the authority of the late Professor Babcock, a distinguished botanist of Chicago, that our native *Cypripedium pubescens* is capable of producing as severe inflammation of the skin as *Rhus Toxicodendron*. The French Daisy, or Marguerite, is also, so far as I know, innocent, but its relationship to *Leucanthemum vulgare* and *Maruta cotula*, our White-weeds, makes it a possible object of suspicion.

There can be no doubt, in my opinion, that the cutaneous affection in these cases was of an artificial character, and that the exciting cause is to be sought among the plants recently handled in this extensive establishment. If it be some one of these lately introduced into cultivation and the public market, it is important that it should be discovered. It was suggested as a possible explanation by the proprietor, my patient, that some of the fertilizers used about low-growing plants, as Violets, etc., might have accumulated upon the leaves, and thus be transferred to the hands in making up bunches for sale, or that some of the mildews upon the foliage might, perhaps, be irritating when handled. *Ustilago hypodites*, parasitic upon *Arundo donax*, is a frequent cause of cutaneous inflammation among the workers in this Reed in France, but I am acquainted with no other fungus with such properties.

As it seems probable that the offender in this case is some new plant, I wrote to Professor Goodale asking him if he had known the suspected Acacia or Primula to cause such irritation. He replies:

"Our gardeners say that they have not experienced any trouble from *A. pubescens* or *P. obconica*, but that there is a plant, as yet undetected, which has lately given them a good deal of irritation."

It is with the hope that some cultivator of, or dealer in, flowers may be able to throw light upon the matter, that I send this communication to GARDEN AND FOREST.

Harvard Medical School, Boston.

James C. White.

To the Editor of GARDEN AND FOREST:

Sir.—You will, perhaps, be interested to hear that by far the most beautiful of the southern California shade trees is the Pepper tree. Its graceful form, delicate foliage, feathery sprays of white blossoms, and long pendant clusters of red berries, all present in profusion at every season of the year, make a most effective feature in nearly all the streets and parks of Los Angeles. Its growth is phenomenally rapid and attains great height and breadth.

The shade, though not dense, is exceedingly pleasant, not only by reason of the lovely arabesque of tracery reflected upon the hot yellow soil, but also by the pungently resinous odor which it exhales, and which is at once refreshing, stimulating and soothing to the lungs. Nature seems to have provided in great abundance this "healing balm," as the antidote for the irritating effect of the finely powdered, almost impalpable adobe dust that infests the air of California for the greater