

Hawthorn, of World Fame Through Poetry and Prose of England, Virginian Waterleaf, White Lily and Geranium Featured in June



(1) Virginian Waterleaf. (2) Wild Geranium. (3) Hawthorn. (4) Wild Lily of the Valley. (5) Smilacina Racemosa. (6) Star-Flowered Smilacina.

—Photos by M. E. Stocker.

MANY are the allusions to the hawthorns of England in poetry and prose. Indeed, the very name, England, calls up to the observer of plants a mental picture of hawthorn thickets and hedges. It is pertinent to ask why we writers neglect to extol the American species. For our hawthorn trees or shrubs are of extreme beauty, when covered with their snowy bloom, or when glowing with the sweet tasting, stony

bright red "thorn apples." The leaves of the hawthorn may have margins varying from toothed to lobed or divided. The thorns may be long and stout, or few and feeble; thus defining the name.

Of all the botanical mixes that of the hawthorn is the most intricate. In Gray's seventh edition no less than sixty-five species of the genus are described, as well as many varieties.

Some botanists go so far as to affirm

that every individual is a distinct species. When the ordinary student wears of edging his brain over minute differences of stamen, anther or whorl, he ignominiously names the species "crataegus sp.?" or passes on the puzzle to the greatest authority, Prof. Sargent, the director of the renowned Arnold Arboretum of Boston. Those desirous of extending their acquaintance of hawthorn may see grouped together in this arboretum the

largest collection of both native and foreign species known to the world.

At this time hydrophyllum, the Virginian waterleaf, makes a profuse growth in rich woodlands. It may be recognized by the primately divided leaf, often blotched with white, and the somewhat showy flower cluster made up of lavender colored bells to which a touch of fragile grace is added by the slender protruding stamens.

Close by the waterleaf may be seen some of the smilacinas, or false Solomon's seal, as the star-flowered with sparsely flowered raceme of small white blossoms; smilacina racemosa, stouter, with larger, coarser and smaller and more numerous compactly clustered yellowish flowers; s. triflora, similar to and equally beautiful, but of lower habit than the leafy stemmed stellata and affecting bog lands; last of all, the two-leaved Maanthemum canadense, the lowliest and loveliest—often called wild lily of the valley. The latter species is not classed with the smilacinas because it has four floral leaves and four stamens instead of six. All of these species are decorative in fruit as well as in flower, for they have red berries.

Fortunately those who are interested may see growing by the side of the smilacinas the real Solomon's seal, similar in habit to smilacina racemosa, but with a few drooping, elongated, green flower bells above the leaves, all along the stem, succeeded in time by dark purple berries. Why called Solomon's seal, do you ask? Burrowing in the earth will disclose a fleshy underground stem scarred at intervals with rounded, shallow pits that have been likened to seals—a seal for each annual, aerial stalk. "Venerable is Solomon" you will exclaim, if you attempt to trace their number.

In the same vicinity is the baneberry, more noticeable in fruit than in flower. One species bears large red berries, and another white, on short red stalks. The flowers are inconspicuous and white; the leaf, large and branched, composed of many small leaflets.

Few are unable to name the wild geranium when they observe the form of the leaf, the flower cluster, and the flower. This geranium enlivens large expanses of woodlands with its purplish flowers. The significance of another name—cranesbill—is seen when the blossom goes to seed, forming a bird-like beak, from the base of which uncurl fine little seed-like fruits. —ELOISE BUTLER.

OLD CURE FOR SNAKE BITE.

Used by Indians Before the Days of Whiskey—How to Make It.

Oklahoma City, June 4.—(Special.)—

Fewer cases of snake bites will be reported now that the State dispensary system is to be done away with, for few persons will care to be bitten if they can't get whiskey for a remedy. Long before the days of firewater the Cherokee Indians used a cure, which is thus described by an aged member of the tribe:

"Take the leaves of a cocklebur, enough to make a poultice, and simmer them over a fire until sufficiently pliant to make the poultice properly; then apply to the wound. Then drink a half teacupful of the water in which the leaves were boiled."

The treatment is also good for bee stings. Mrs. Narcissa Owen, mother of United States Senator Robert L. Owen, relates that the cocklebur treatment was used successfully by her sister, Mrs. Jane Burton of Muldrow, in several instances.