

be furnished. The stock of duplicates belonging to the Department of Agriculture has during the past winter been labeled and arranged in botanical order, and now represents nearly 1,000 genera, being especially full in grasses and plants of the southwest.

Many names are being received of persons desiring to join an exchange. To these and others the rules will be sent when the exchange is organized. Persons interested are requested to correspond with the chairman of the committee, Dr. George Vasey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A. A. CROZIER.

Washington, D. C.

### Alexipharmics.

When reading the article on alexipharmics, or snake-bite antidotes, in the recent number of the *Annals of Botany*, I felt a little surprise at the small number of plants mentioned. I had a vague notion that the list of American species of reputed potency might be increased. This led me to make out, as near as I could recall them, a list of such plants as had some reference to snakes in their names. I am surprised to find in my private library (I have not consulted the large college collection) how little reference there is to the origin of the names. In many cases I am in doubt whether the title has reference to medicinal qualities or external resemblances. Even Darlington and Wood, usually rather expansive on such matters, are singularly silent. Down south, where, it is said, the natives hunt all day for a snake in order to take the remedial tincture there may be more knowledge on the subject. Here is the list for what it is worth:

*Actæa spicata*, both varieties, snake-root; *Eryngium yuccæfolium*, rattlesnake master; *Sanicula Canadensis*, black snakeroot; *Eupatorium ageratoides*, white snakeroot; *Liatris*, various species, button snakeroot; *Hieracium venosum*, rattlesnake-weed; *Asarum Canadense*, Canada snake-root; *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Virginia snakeroot; *Goodyera*, two species, rattlesnake-plantain; *Glyceria Canadensis*, rattlesnake-grass; *Botrychium Virginicum*, rattlesnake-fern.

In Lindley's *Medical Botany* (1838) the name "rattlesnake-master" is applied to *Liatris squarrosa*, with the note that it is so called in the southern part of America, and "in case of being bitten by this animal (the rattlesnake) they bruise the roots and apply them to the wound, while at the same time the patient drinks a decoction of it in milk." He speaks of three species of *Mikania* so employed, but ours is not among them. Has it value?

In regard to *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Flückiger and Hanbury say, "Its ancient reputation for the cure of snake-bites is now disregarded."

I think it would be interesting to more than myself if some competent person would give us an authentic list of all reputed alexipharmics, and also what is known of the origin of such ophidian names as the above.

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

W. WHITMAN BAILEY.

### Strawberry poisoning.

In response to my note upon this subject in the January GAZETTE, I have received a communication from Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of Waverly, N. Y., calling my attention to a number of cases similar to those recorded by myself, which had already been observed and published. The earliest





Bailey, William Whitman. 1888. "Alexipharmics." *Botanical gazette* 13(4), 100–100. <https://doi.org/10.1086/326262>.

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