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JABBERWOCKY. THOUGH botanical barbarisms like *Pseudotsuga taxifolia* and *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* are not exactly euphonius they are a great advance on the long phrases which they displaced. When Linnaeus gave the weight of his authority to the simple "binomial system", phrases like the CLEMATIS AMERICANA FLORE PHOENICEO of the accompanying illustration were replaced by short, two-parted names, a generic term followed by a specific one. Individual plants are now indexed under species and the various related species are grouped and indexed under genera. When he first comes into contact with these mystic polysyllables, which the botanists calls, "scientific names", the average layman can appreciate the remarks Alice made after reading "Jabberwocky" in her excursion through the looking-glass. You will remember that the poem told of "Slithy toves" and how they did "gyre and gimble in the wabe". "Somehow", said Alice, "it fills my head with ideas only I don't exactly know what they are".

But botanical names are really more than "Jabberwocky". After a little familiarity with seed lists and flower catalogues, the fog begins to clear away. Many of the names still remain meaningless and unfamiliar but here and there intelligible syllables like *japonica* and *maritima* are found to reappear with obvious connotations. When one at last begins to realize that these cataloguing devices are something more than mere nonsense syllables he is in a fair way to profit from their use. Some of these names indicate the habit of the plant, others its origin; the great majority refer to the peculiarities of that particular genus and species.



The specific names are most commonly descriptive. Some of the terms which occur most frequently and which are useful in that they tell a little something about the plant are the following:

Those describing the habit of the plant

scandens	climbing
repens	creeping
fruticans or frutescens	shrubby

Those describing the locality in which the plant grows

palustris	marsh loving
rupestris	rock loving
arenarius	of sandy places

Those interested in choice Asiatic shrubs will do well to remember the names *amurensis*, *tangutica*, and *sachalinensis*. All three are to be found in various spelling for when Asiatic place names are transliterated into latin every man is his own master. *Amurense* refers to the Amur river between Manchuria and Siberia. It is the home of our "Amur Privet", and the Amur Corktree, *Phellodendron amurense*. It is a region of hot summers and cold winters. Plants labelled *amurense* may be expected to withstand our difficult American climate. *Tangutica* carries us back to the times of Marco Polo when the Mongol emperors conquered the kingdom of Tangut and united it with their empire. Then as now, its Chinese name was Kansu, but Marco Polo, attached to the Mongol court, was not overly familiar with Chinese and used Mongolian terms when he dictated his famous book. So it came about that European scholars heard about Tangut before they were familiar with Kansu, and many Chinese plants bear that specific name. Kansu is not so far north as the Amur river and a species called *tangutica* is apt to be a little too tender for New England gardens. Saghalin is the long narrow island north of Japan. It has a cold but damp climate and species named *sachalinensis* are apt to be more winter hardy than drought resistant.

A few of these geographical specific names have to be taken with a grain of salt, particularly those referring to our Atlantic seaboard. When collectors first sent back plants from the American wilderness to European botanists, the words, Canada, Virginia, and Carolina were very loosely applied. In those days Canada or Virginia might refer to almost any point along the eastern coast. So we find the fragrant sumac masquerading as *Rhus canadensis*, though it is a common shrub in many southern states and is native to only a portion of Ontario. The wild barberry of our southern states is known botanically as *Berberis cana-*



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