

Luib-Seanús,

maile le

Seann-cuntaí ar fáoḋaí luét leisir,  
i n-Éirinn.

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IRISH ETHNO-BOTANY  
AND THE  
Evolution of Medicine in Ireland.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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### IRISH ETHNO-BOTANY AND THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND.

THIS book aims to give in outline the evolution of Medicine in Ireland and to indicate the comprehensive character of Irish Ethno-Botany. Our country's share in the development of medical science is unknown, and, therefore, unrecognised. The names of Graves, Stokes, and Corrigan are undoubtedly impressed on the annals of Medicine. Yet these men do not represent the Irish so much as the Anglo-Celtic school.

The medical profession in this country suffers like the rest of the race from England's pedagogy. Somebody has criticised the educational system because it ignores the life history of the subject with which it deals. Not only does it ignore the life history, but it hides the race history. The exotic educational tree which the Irish child must climb bears but one fruit worth having. That fruit grows on a graft so carefully placed that it hides the poisonous nature of the tree itself. Education without Nationality is, however, no less absurd than Education without Religion.

In this book I have endeavoured to indicate the wealth now lying hidden in the Gaelic nature creeds, and look forward with hope to the day when "Nature, the sombre and veiled companion of the children of unfaith," will become "the revealed and laughing nurse of the children of belief."

IRISH ETHNO-BOTANY  
AND  
THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND.

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The character of this work necessarily means obligation to many sources. Grateful acknowledgment is expressed to all, and especially to 'Liam O'Meehan for his valuable aid in elucidating the Irish nomenclature.

μηρε,

μιχεάλ ό μαουδομναίξ.

Όύν-Ώαρθάν,

1 η'Οείρηθ Μυήαν,

1919.

(Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.)

# IRISH ETHNO-BOTANY.

## INTRODUCTION.

OUT of the shades of history and from the babel of tradition we must collect the fragments that will serve to build the Ethno-Botany of the Celts.

The religion of early Ireland consisted largely of nature worship.

The primitive Celt sought everywhere for An Ti Ta (He who is). As a follower of the Druids, he worshipped groves, and held in veneration the oak and the mistletoe. The mountains, rivers and seas claimed his attention, and were objects which called forth his greater Naturism. These again he peopled with Naiads, Dryads, Fauns and Fairies. His pantheon extended "to the seas around and to the skies above."

These pagans were not barbarians, and Christianity crystallised rapidly out of the flux. The Druids taught them the immortality and transmigration of the soul, but animism mainly formed their naïve philosophy. The religion of the country, then, was an indefinite mysticism, and with nature-worship as the dominant devotion, the transition to Christianity was accomplished with ease.

These pagan "listeners in the woods" had actually blazed the trail for their more dogmatic yet very similar followers. The first Irish Christians lived their lives and loved their *Comhrie na nOaoime* (Lord of Folk) at the feet of nature. St. Columban, like his predecessors, sensed the Sabbath of the woods and fields, and tells us that his profession was "to be always on the alert to find God in nature."

The early literature of the country, reflecting the naturism of the times, is largely a nature hymnal. Marbhan's shieling in the wood had a lure and a charm greater for him than the palace of his princely brother Guaire. In the swineherd's reply to the prince's surprised demand :—

“ Oh, Marbhan, Oh, hermit, why dost thou sleep abroad,  
thy head upon a floor of pine rather than upon a  
quilted couch ? ”

we get the true note of sylvan ascetism. (This poem is said to have been written in the tenth century and refers to seventh century practice).

The anchorite and monk, having penetrated the fastnesses of nature, brought forth material and spiritual wealth. The traditional knowledge of the hereditary physicians of the septs or clans concerning the actions and uses of our native herbs is a portion of this wealth. We have no less an authority than Van Helmont for the wonderful results accomplished by these hereditary healers, who were acquainted with and used the materia medica of their own country. The Irish herbalists of to-day are, in the vernacular, “ knowledgable persons,” mostly women, who possess a smattering of our folk botany. The vicissitudes of the nation have retarded the transmission of this knowledge until it is well nigh lost in the wilderness whence it was gained.

Our nature heritage is rich. We are modern mystics despite our dogmatic religion. We believe that we are well within our rights when we protest against the attitude of some who would throw contempt on all learning that does not emanate directly from the laboratory. Science, they say, has shaken off the trammels of tradition, and it is the fashion to deride Empiricism. The triumphs of empiricism, however, cannot be gainsaid. Our concern here is not to glorify the herbalist or the homœopath, and certainly not to decry orthodox medicine. But somehow it seems that the ethno-botany of the Red-

Indian and Romany tribes claims the attention of our therapeutists and pharmacologists, while that of the Celt is neglected and unknown. Is it not possible that autocratic science has caused us to over-look an Irish Mendel, or relegated to oblivion many a herb with virtues just as magical as those possessed by the Lusmore? At all events it is not too much to hope that a study of the Ethno-Botany of the Celts allied with the Pharmacology of to-day may win back some of the fame of the Irish Physicians of the long ago, and help at the same time the common cause of humanity.

Some would perhaps think that the English and Cymric folk botany provides all the material that is necessary in this particular field of research. And it is true that the flora of Ireland is on the whole a reduced British flora. Yet we have a number of species very rare or altogether unknown in Great Britain. Besides, just as we are a distinct national entity, so we possess a specific herb lore, and one which will bear comparison with that of any other country.

There are many reasons why the study of these Celtic nature creeds should prove interesting. Ireland has acted missionary to many lands, and early medicine and religion went hand in hand. From the economic view point alone Irish folk botany is worthy of attention. The knowledge of vegetable dyes is proved by the variety and richness of colour schemes exhibited in articles of apparel, and above all in the illumination of manuscripts.

Again, if considered from the educational standpoint, this naturism is a spiritual inheritance which should not be denied. A study of this native flora *in his own tongue* will enable the student to inherit some of the scientific, literary, aesthetic, and religious possessions of the race.

Recent world events have given to natural science the prominence which it deserves in any educational curriculum.

The system adopted as the basis of the following account of Irish herbs is in accordance with modern scientific practice. The herbs are arranged in their natural orders, the botanic name being placed first, then follow the English and Irish equivalents.

For the convenience of readers who may not be conversant with scientific terminology, in addition to the botanic index, English and Irish indices are provided.

The work as it now stands is necessarily incomplete, and the author would feel grateful to any reader who would furnish him with the Irish names of herbs not now included in this book. It is therefore to be hoped that should a further edition be called for, the book will then represent, in full, the culture and wealth of our native herb-lore.



# THE NATIVE MATERIA MEDICA OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN.

## THE LAND FLORA.

### RANUNCULACEÆ.

*Thalictrum Alpinum.* *Alpine meadow rue.* Ρυθ (Ρυθ) Διρρα.

*Thalictrum collinum.* *Lesser meadow rue.* Ρυθ θεας.

*Thalictrum flavum.* *Meadow rue.* Ρυθ λέανα.

Internally antispasmodic, and were given in "falling sickness."

*Anemone Nemorosa.* *Wood Anemone.* Λυρ να ζαοιτε; Κοζατ Θεας; Νεσο Κοιτε.

Recommended for a "cold" in the chest; water passages, and as a stimulating application to indolent sores.

*Ranunculus aquatilis vel circinnatus.* *Water Crowfoot.* Ρυθ υιρρε; Ρλεαν υιρρε; Λιον να ηδδαν.

*Ranunculus Flammula.* *Lesser Spearwort.* Λαραρ λέανα.

*Ranunculus Lingua.* *Great spearwort.* Ζιλαραρ λέανα.

Both of these, the lesser and the greater spearwort, are occasionally the cause of poisoning in cattle; the latter was formerly used as a cure for swine fever.

*Ranunculus Auricomus.* *Goldilocks.* Ζρυαδς Μυρρε; Ζαρβλυρ να Μόνα.

*Ranunculus Acris.* *Meadow Crowfoot.* Σεαρβάν ρεθιρ.

*Ranunculus repens.* *Sitfast.* ρεαρβάν.

*Ranunculus Bulbosus.* *Bulbous Crowfoot or Butter-cup.* Ρυθ Κατμαν; Τυτε Κατμαν.

The previous three, *Acris*, *Repens*, *Bulbosus*, are recommended for "stitches" and St. Anthony's fire.

*Ranunculus Ficaria.* *Lesser Celandine.* Σεαρραδς; Ζρδάν Δρκαίν.

An ointment was made from the plant for use in the treatment of piles.

- Caltha Palustris.* *Marsh Marigold.* Θεάριον Θεαταίμε; Ριυδαίριν; Λυρ Θυρε Θεαταίμε; Ριαρ-ελάτ Όρδα.  
 The herb of the May Day festival. Associated more with divination and magic than therapeutics. Garlands were made of it to protect the cattle and produce from the evil influence of fairies and witches.
- Aquilegia Vulgaris.* *Columbine.* Λυρ αν Colum; Cρύβα Λειρίν.
- Aconitum Napellus.* *Monkshood.* Ταταβα Τουβ.  
 The Monkshood and Columbine are not true natives. The Monkshood is very poisonous and very rare. The Columbine is frequently found "wild."

### NYPHAEACEAE.

- Nuphar Luteum.* *Yellow Water-lily.* Βιλεός βάρτε θυρε; Καθάν Δθάμν.
- Nymphaea Alba.* *White Water-lily.* Τουιλεός (βιλεός) βάρτε θάν; Cυρμίν θάν.

### PAPAVERACEAE.

- Papaver Somniferum.* *Opium Poppy.* Cοταισίν; Cρομλυρ; Ραιρίν; Λυρ αν Cοταίτ.  
 Has established itself in some parts as a "native." The juice coming from incisions made in the capsule when dried constitutes opium.
- Papaver Rhæas.* *Corn Poppy.* Καίλλεαδ Όεαρς; Βιάτ να μθοθαδ; Καίλιcίν.  
 The petals are used as a colouring agent. A syrup made from the petals is useful as an anodyne expectorant.
- Glaucium Flavum.* *Yellow horned Poppy.* Βάρρος Ρυαδ.
- Chelidonium majus.* *Celandine.* Λαδ εαηρηαδ; Δονηcot.  
 Is a purgative and diuretic; an ingredient in cancer cures, and recommended for corns.

### FUMARIACEAE.

- Fumaria officinalis.* *Common Fumitory.* Θεαταδ Ταίμαν; Cαμάν Σεαρραις; Θεαρς Ταίμαν; Ξιουρίαμ.  
 Given as a decoction in skin affections, especially to infants with scalp trouble.

### CRUCIFERAE.

Cheiranthus Cheiri. *Wall Flower*. Λυρ αν ΘΑΛΛΑ; Λυρ λεατ αν τΣαμψιατῶ.

The flowers were used (a) steeped in oil as an anodyne and stimulating liniment. (b) As an infusion (one oz. to one pint of water) for nervous troubles. The flowers contain eugenic acid and caryophyllin.

### THE CRESSES.

Nasturtium Officinale. *Watercress*. Θιολαρ; Θιολαρ.

Nasturtium Sylvestre. *Woodcress*. Θιολαρ Κοιλλεατῶ.

Nasturtium Palustre. *Marshcress*. Θιολαρ Κυρρατῆς.

Nasturtium Amphibium. *Water Radish*. Μεσααν ραδισιμ υιρσε.

Barbara vulgaris }  
 ,, intermedia } *Winter Cress*. Τρεαθατ.  
 ,, praecox }

Arabis petraea }  
 ,, hirsuta } *Rock Cress*. Σαρ αν Χαλλις (να Χαλλιζε ?).  
 ,, ciliata }

Cardamine Amara. *Bitter Cress*. Θιολαρ Σεαρῶ.

See Cardamine Pratensis below.

All the Cresses possess antiscorbutic properties and were in great favour in the complaints scurvy and scrofula. They contain potash and calcium salts, iodine and the valuable sulphocyanide of allyl, as well as iron. The cultivated varieties of Nasturtium were introduced from France into Ireland, as is indicated by the names given to those herbs. The garden cress was known as Σαλλ θιολαρ and θιολαρ ζαρῶα, and the "town" cress as θιολαρ φραντζατῶ, "town" being an English corruption for the French *tonne*, or enclosure. The Cress has lost favour in the Ireland of to-day owing to the introduction of the other varieties of vegetables. The Nasturtium is still used as a table decoration for the *blanc mange* made from Carrageen Moss; a sprig or flower being used much as the holly is in the Christmas pudding. The combination of the Nasturtium with Carrageen Moss is certainly excellent from the scientific view point. No better article could be placed in the

dietary of the consumptive than the Carrageen, which is nutritious, demulcent, and has an iodine content. The sulphocyanide of allyl in the nasturtium is again coming into vogue in the treatment of phthisis.

*Cardamine Pratensis.* *Ladies Smock, Cuckoo Flower, or Bitter Cress.* Λέμε Μύιρε; Σεϊνιν Κυσιέ; Στεόριαν.

The flowering tops were used as an antispasmodic remedy in St. Vitus dance, falling sickness, etc. It flowers on or about Lady Day.

*Cochlearia Officinalis.* *Scurvy Grass, Spoonwort.* Κυρριάν; Βιοτάρ Τράζα.

The remedy formerly used by all mariners to prevent scurvy on long voyages. Is said to be useful in the treatment of spongy gums. The habitat of this herb is maritime and sub-maritime, i.e., it is found on the coast and along the banks of estuaries.

*Erophila Vulgaris.* *Whitlow Grass.* Βιοτάρ Σηραζάμ.

*Sisymbrium Officinale.* *Hedge Mustard.* Λυρ αν Όιρ; Μετυρε.

Was used for hoarseness, throat and chest complaints.

*Sisymbrium Sophia.* *Flixweed.* Φινέαλ Μύιρε.

Formerly used for dysentery or flix, hence the name.

*Sisymbrium Alliaria.* *Jack-by-the-hedge, or Garlic Mustard.*

Σάιρλεός Κοιλλεσό; Οό Ουννεαλλ.

*Brassica Nigra.* *Black Mustard.* } Πραιρεάσ Βυρθε.

*Brassica Alba.* *White Mustard.* }

*Brassica Sinapis.* *Charlock.* Πραιρεάσ Ξαρθ; Λυρ να Σύλ μθυρθε; Κυρριάν Βυρθε; Νόμιν Βυρθε.

Both are official in the B.P. The seeds of both collected from cultivated plants form the mustard of commerce when mixed and pulverised.

*Capsella Bursa Pastoris.* *Shepherd's Purse.* Λυρ αν Σραμάν; Λυρ Κορκασό να Ροά; Σπάριόιν; Λυθ να Νδοριάν.

Was used in hæmorrhages, also as diuretic and emmenagogue. Is said to contain an alkaloid "bursine."

*Senebiera Coronopus.* *Swine's Cress.* Σλάνλυρ να Μυρ; Ροά; Κλαθκάσ Βυρθε.

*Lepidium Latifolium.* *Dittander.* } Λυρ αν Ριοβαίρ.

*Lepidium Campestre.* *Pepperwort.* }

*Thlaspi Arvense.* *Pennycress.* Πραιρεάσ να Ξκαοραά; Πραιρεάσ Ρίαιθ.

*Crambe Maritima*. *Sea-Kale*. ρραιρεάδ να μαρα ; ρραιρεάδ  
Τράξδα ; Μυράν.

*Raphanus Raphanisturm*. *Wild Radish*. μεσσαν Ραιουίς ;  
Cυρράν Θεαρς.

*Raphanus Maritimus*. *Sea Radish*. μεσσαν μαρα.

One herbalist whom I have met uses one variety of radish in an ointment as a cure for "evil," and as it is collected from a stream this is probably the Water Radish *N. amphibium*, *vide supra*.

*Cochlearia armoracia*. *Horse Radish*. μεσσαν Εαδ ; μεσσαν  
Ραγυμ ; υίρρε Θεατα να μθράταρ.

Used internally in the form of sauce made with milk, as a condiment externally applied as a counter-irritant.

### RESEDACEAE.

*Reseda Lutea*. *Wild Mignonette*. θυροε μόν.

*Reseda Luteola*. *Dyers' Weed*. Ρυαθόάν ; Ρυαθόάν θυροε.

### BERBERIDEÆ.

*Berberis Vulgaris*. *Barberry*. Βαρβρός.

A decoction of Sulphur and Barberry bark in Stout is used with good effect for Jaundice, both in veterinary and human subjects.

### CISTINEAE.

<i>Helianthemum Guttatum</i> .	} Ρλύρ να Σπέμε ; Ρόρ να Καρραισε.
<i>Spotted Rock Rose</i> .	
<i>Helianthemum Vineale</i> .	
<i>Hoary Rock Rose</i> .	

Both of these are said to have been used in the treatment of shingles or wild fire (*Herpes Zoster*).

### VIOLACEAE.

<i>Viola Palustris</i> . <i>Marsh Violet</i> .	} Σαλέουαδ ; Κογαλ Σορμ.
<i>Viola Odorata</i> . <i>Sweet Violet</i> .	
<i>Viola Hirta</i> . <i>Hairy Violet</i> .	
<i>Viola Arvensis</i> . <i>Field Violet</i> .	
<i>Viola Sylvatica</i> . <i>Wood Violet</i> .	

*Viola Canina. Dog Violet.* Παναίστε; Βιοὺ ἄ Λειτέρου.

*Viola Tricolor. Wild Pansy.* Σορμάν Σαρμαίξ; Σορμίν; Σαλέουά (?).

*Viola Lutea. Mountain Pansy.* Σορμίν Στέβε.

The general rendering for Violet in Irish is Σαλέουά; other terms are Κοζαλ Σορμ; Σορμάν; Σορμίν, γμλ.

The explanation of how this flower was named Σαλέουά is in doubt. Some suggest that the literal translation is Cuckoo's Heel, or stocking. This leads us to the extraordinary resemblance to a miniature bird which can be contrived by removing the calyx and corolla off the flower. The stigma then forms a head and neck, the anthers a golden flecked breast with their tongues protruding like green wings.

Another interpretation is that the spur of the violet resembles the old Irish drinking horn (Cυαά). This modest little flower is rarely used medicinally nowadays. It was formerly used as an ingredient in cancer cures, and was in great repute for skin affections, especially those of childhood.

A laxative syrup was made from the whole herb and given internally.

### FOLYGALACEAE.

Polygala vulgaris.	}	Λυρ ἄν Ὀάμνε; Σλύμεά; Νά Όειρῶρίύρίνι.
<i>Milkwort</i> (genus).		
Polygala serpyllacea.		

Was used by nursing women to increase the flow of milk.

### CARYOPHYLLACEÆ.

*Saponaria Officinalis. Soapwort.* Λυρ ἄν τΣιαβυμν; Σαρῶάν  
Cρεαζαά; Λυρ ὕετα.

Saponin is the active principle of the herb and exists in all parts of the plant, root, leaves, and flowers.

The herb was used on the Continent for syphilis. The chief use to which the herb was put in Ireland was the treatment of inflammation of the lungs, hence the name Λυρ ὕετα, herb of the chest. It was the soap of mendicants,

- Silene Cucubalus. *Bladder Campion.*  
 Silene Maritima. *Sea Campion.*  
 Silene Anglica. *English Catchfly.*  
 Lychnis Vespertina. *White Campion.*  
 Lychnis Diurna. *Red Campion.*
- Coirpeán Coilleac  
 (Coiligh ?); Cipeán  
 Coiligh.
- Lychnis Flos-cuculi. *Ragged Robin.* Lur Síoda; Plúrna Cuaidé.  
 Lychnis Githago. *Corn Cockle.* Luib Laoibead; Cozal.

Is a common weed in corn fields, since its seeds are poisonous their mixture with grain may have serious results.

- Cerastium Glomeratum. } *Mouse Ear.* Cluar Liac; Cluar  
 „ Triviale. } Lucóige; Cluar Luc; Lur  
 „ Arvense. } mibe; Lur na Míol.  
 Stellaria Media. *Chickweed.* Flíod.

Contains Potash Salts. Was formerly given for rheumatism. Is now given only to moulting cage birds.

- Stellaria Holostea. *Greater Stitchwort.* Turpreac; Turparram.  
 Stellaria Graminea. *Lesser Stitchwort.* Turparramín.

Both contain silica, and, as the name indicates, were used for "stitches" and the pains of muscular rheumatism.

- Spergula Arvensis. *Corn Spurrey.* Cluam lín; Currán lín;  
 Clúbán.

### HYPERICINEAE.

There are several varieties of *Hypericum* native in Ireland. The varieties given below occur most frequently.

- Hypericum Androsaemum.* *Tutsan.* Meaf Turc Allca.

The reason why this flower received the title "Rose of Sharon" is obscure. It is known to all herbalists, and is used by them internally and externally in a variety of affections. The chief use in the past for this herb was as a cleanser of punctured wounds. The herb is given internally as a diuretic.

- Hypericum perforatum.* } *St John's Wort.* Luib Eom Dairce;  
 „ pulchrum. } Lur Coluimcille; Allur Múire;  
 „ dubium. } Deatnuasó Domeann (Common);  
 „ tetrapterum. } Deatnuasó Fíneann (Square stemmed).

The St. John's Wort of England is in Ireland associated with the Blessed Virgin and St. Coluimcille as well as St. John. The herb is recommended by the chief

herbalist in County Waterford as an excellent remedy for "an airy fit," i.e., to dispel the clouds of melancholia and other forms of insanity.

### MALVACEAE.

- Althaea Officinalis.* *Marsh Mallow.* *Uamác murge.*  
*Malva Sylvestris.* *Common Mallow.* *mímeacán; tur na*  
*míol móir; ucar (Ocor); ucar fíodam.*  
*Malva Rotundifolia.* *Dwarf Mallow.* *ucar fíanncá.*

The herbs are used internally as demulcent remedies for coughs and hoarseness. An ointment made from the root is still in demand as an emollient for rubbing into painful and stiff joints.

### LINEAE.

- Linum Catharticum.*  
*Purging Flax.* *míorác; caotác.*  
*Fairy „* *líon na mBan Sróe; míonnucá.*  
*Dwarf „* *líon beas.*

This is the indigenous variety which occurs in abundance in all divisions of Ireland. It is said that when boiled with the flower end uppermost the infusion prepared will promote vomiting. When the flower end is placed in the water with stem uppermost purging is produced by the infusion. If purging and vomiting are the desired effects the herb is placed accordingly. This herb, boiled in beer, has been given with good effect in Jaundice.

- Linum Usitatissimum.* *Flax.* *líon.*  
 The Flax grown for linseed and linen manufacture.  
*Flax Seed, Síol Ruir; Róir-líon.* Used in Menorrhagia.  
*Tow or Coarse Flax.* *bunác; buarác.*  
 Is used with white and yolk of egg by bone setters and makes excellent splinting material when supported with leather.

### GERANIACEAE.

- Geranium Sanguineum.* }  
*Bloody Crane's Bill.* } *Creadác Deas; Cíob pheadám;*  
*Geranium Molle.* } *Carball Ruí (Stinking C.)*  
*Soft Crane's Bill.* }



Geranium Dissectum. *Dove's Foot*. Cṙob Cólum; Cṙeasṙac.

Geranium Robertianum. *Herb Robert*. Cṙob Deapṙ; Ruitéal  
Ríog; Rían Ríog.

Known to every farmer in Ireland as Cṙob Deapṙ and said to be an infallible remedy for red-water in cattle. An intelligent diabetic was recommended to take an infusion made of Cṙob Deapṙ (a handful of the herb to one pint of water) in wineglassful doses night and morning, and tells me that it has put new life into him. He has tried many a doctor's bottle previous to this, and was always a rigid adherent to the recognised dietary.

Oxalis Acetosella. *Wood Sorrel*. Samáṙ Cottleáṙ; Seapṙos Cottleáṙ; Seabṙos ṙíṙṙa; Úileṙ na nCán.

### ILICINEAE.

Ilex Aquifolium. *Holly*. Cuiteann.

### CELASTRINEAE.

Euonymus Europaeus. *Spindle Tree*. ṙeṙṙar; Oṙṙ-ṙ.

A characteristic shrub of the limestone pavements in Ireland. Euonymin, the resinous principle of the berry, is purgative, emetic, and a liver stimulant. The bark also contains euonymin and has been used to destroy lice in children's hair.

### RHAMNEAE.

Rhamnus Catharticus. *Purging Buckthorn*. Ramṙṙarṙeáṙ; Maṙe Úṙéáṙ.

Is rare in Ireland. The berries are powerfully purgative.

Rhamnus Frangula. *Alder Buckthorn*. Ramṙṙarṙeáṙ Min.

Is still rarer in Ireland than Rh. Catharticus. The cascara of the shops is a preparation made from an American Buckthorn (Rhamnus Persiana). An efficient substitute can be made from our native Rhamnus Frangula bark, but this latter has the disadvantage of griping.

### LEGUMINOSAE.

Ulex Europaeus. *Gorse, Whin*. Áṙeáṙ.

The flowers were used to produce a yellow dye.

*Cytisus Scoparius*. *Broom*. ΞΙΟΙΤΑΔ; ΞΙΟΙΤΟΪ.

The active principles Scoparin and Spartein are powerful diuretics and are contained in the "tops" or terminal twigs. The remedy is given in dropsy of all kinds, sometimes alone and sometimes combined with other herbs. The usual plan is to boil down a handful (one ounce) of the tops in a pint of water, until the quantity is reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint. Strain, and give a wineglassful three times daily. In the old days the ΞΙΟΙΤΑΔ held the place of the modern disinfectant, the process was a fumigation of the premises by burning the broom twigs in the centre of the affected area.

*Ononis Repens*. *Rest-harrow*. ΣΠΕΑΝΣ ΟΨΑ; ΡΝΕΑΔΑ (ΡΝΕΑΔΑ) ΤΑΙΡΗΣΤΕ; ΡΝΕΥΜ (ΡΝΕΑΜ) ΤΑΡΡΑΙΗΣΤΕ.

*Wild Liquorice*. ΛΙΟΚΟΡΥΙΤ; ΚΑΡΡΑ ΜΕΑΔΑ; ΚΑΡΡΑ ΜΙΛΙΤ.

The juice expressed from the leaves was employed as an emollient application for chapped and rough hands.

The juice of the root is sweet and viscid.

*Melilotus Officinalis*. *Melilot*. ΜΕΛΙΟΤΑΔ; ΚΡΑΪΒΙΝΙ ΚΥΤ; ΡΛΥΪΡΪΝ ΣΕΑΝΣΑΝ.

A homœopathic remedy for epilepsy and nervous headache.

*Trifolium Pratense*. *Red Clover*. ΣΕΑΜΑΡ ΕΑΡΑΙΤ.

An ingredient in mixtures to "clear" the blood.

*Trifolium Arvense*. *Hare's Foot Trefoil*. ΚΟΡ ΜΑΤΘΕΑΔ.

*Trifolium Repens*. *White or Dutch Clover*. ΣΕΑΜΑΡ ΒΑΝ.

*Trifolium Dubium*. *Shamrock*. ΣΕΑΜΡΟΪ.

The vexed questions as to which of the Clover tribes is the Shamrock, and the claim of *Oxalis Acetosella* (*Wood Sorrel*) to the title, is by no means settled.

There are just a dozen varieties of clover native to Ireland: two of these dispute the title of national emblem. The claimants are *Trifolium Repens* and *Trifolium Dubium* vel *Minus*. Both share the honour of being worn on St. Patrick's Day, but as the leaves of *T. Repens* are marked with a white spot and the smaller forms are preferred, *T. Dubium* is undoubtedly the Shamrock of to-day.

Despite the statement, "there appears to be absolutely no evidence that this species was at any time used by the Irish as their national badge" (*Cybele Hibernica*,

Ed. ii.), some authorities still hold that the Wood Sorrel (Oxalis Acetosella) is the true Shamrock (see Geraniaceae). The three, Trifolium Repens, Dubium, and Oxalis Acetosella, are found in all countries from the Mediterranean to the Arctic Circle.

*Anthyllis Vulneraria. Lady's Finger.* μεδύτη μύριση; Κοράνη  
 υαίν.

*Ornithopus Perpusillus. Bird's-foot.* Ορνίθα Ein.

*Lotus Corniculatus. Bird's Foot Trefoil.* Βάραρ αν μύριση.

*Astragalus Hypoglottis. Purple Milk Vetch.* Βυιοκτρίρεάιν.

Said to increase the milk supply in goats.

*Vicia Hirsuta. Hairy Tare.* βεαράρη αν άρβωρη.

*Vicia Cracca. Tufted Vetch.* βεαράρη να λυό; βεαράρη λυό  
 να κοίλλη; βιρεάναό τρυξ.

*Vicia Sepium. Bush Vetch.* βεαράρη βιαόαιν.

*Lathyrus Pratensis. Meadow Vetchling.* βεαράρη βυρθε;  
 βυρ βυρθε.

*Lathyrus Macrorrhizus. Heath Pea.* βυρ βιέιθε.

The tubers of this are eaten, and in Scotland used to flavour whiskey.

## ROSACEAE.

*Prunus Spinosa. Blackthorn.* Ορραϊζεαν. Sloe. άιρνε.

Sloes are considered unwholesome by all herbalists of the present day. They are powerfully astringent.

*Prunus Avium. Wild Cherry.* Συρίρ; Σειλίν βιαόαιν.

*Prunus Cerasus. Dwarf Cherry.* Σειλίν.

*Spiraea Ulmaria. Meadow Sweet.* άιρζεαο λυαόρη; λυρ  
 κνεαρ; Ορρορ Κογκυλαίν, (S. Galicifolia.)

Was used as a "sweetener" for scouring milk churns. The root was mixed with copperas (sulphate of iron) for producing a black dye.

*Spiraea Filipendula. Dropwort.* λυρ βραοναό; βρεαόαιν.

*Rubus Idaeus. Raspberry.* Συξόραοβ.

*Rubus Fruticosus. Blackberry.* Σμεαρ Ουβ (Fruit).  
 Βραμπε, Ορρυεός; Ορρυρ; Σεαό (Plan').

The roots were used to furnish a black dye.

*Rubus Chamaemorus. Cloudberry.* Ειτερεός; λυρ να η-Ειτερεός.

*Rubus Caesius. Dewberry.* βορην Όεαρκ.

*Rubus saxatilis. Stone Bramble.* Σύξ να μβαν ηλιν.

Dryas Octopetala. *Mountain Avens*. μαδάτ Στέιβε ;  
λεάτιν.

Geum Urbanum. *Wood Avens*. μαδάτ Κοιλλεαό.  
Is given for "chills."

Fragaria Vesca. *Strawberry*. Σύξ-Ταλμάν ; Τλαότρυξ. *Wild  
Strawberry*. Σύξ-Λάιρ ; Οίξμεός.

Potentilla Fragariastrum. *Barren Strawberry*. Σύξ-Ταλμάν  
Σεαρσ.

Potentilla Reptans. *Creeping Cinquefoil*. Cύξ μνέαρ μνιρε.

Potentilla Tormentilla. *Tormentil*. Βενεοίν ; Λεοναρτάς ;  
Νεαμνιάρ ; Λυρ να Κοουλατα ; Βάρρ Βραονάν να ΞCon.  
This, in conjunction with Yellow Pimpernel, is used as a  
hypnotic for Insomnia.

Potentilla Anserina. *Silverweed*. Βημορσιάν.

Potentilla Palustris. *Marsh Cinquefoil*. Cύξ Βιλεαό ηιρσε ;  
Σεαμρός Cύξ Βιλεαό.

Alchemilla Vulgaris. *Lady's Mantle*. Βρατός μνιρε ; Ψαλλαις  
μνιρε ; Θεάρνα μνιρε ; Cότα βρεαρτάς ; Λεατάς  
Βυρθε.

This herb, like Saxifrage and Knawell, is also called  
μιονάν μνιρε from its supposed curative properties  
in urinary calculus. It is also an astringent, owing to  
its tannin content.

Alchemilla Alpina. *Alpine Lady's Mantle*. Τρυρξάν.

Agremonia Eupatoria. *Agrimony*. Μέριμ να μάξ ; Ξειρβιλεαό ;  
Αιρσεαόάν.

Was used in preparation of a lotion for wounds.

Poterium Sanguisorba. *Salad Burnet*. Βιλεαό Ιορσάιμ ; Λυρ  
αν ηιλλε.

Pyrus Aucuparia. *Mountain Ash ; Rowan*. Cαορτσάν\* ;  
Ψυμνρεός Κοιλλεαό ; Λυρ.

The berries, contrary to popular belief, are edible. The  
leaves contain prussic acid and are, therefore,  
poisonous. An infusion of the leaves is a popular  
remedy for rheumatism (an oz. to one pint) ; dose, one  
wineglassful. The leaves, when burned and inhaled,  
are said to be useful in asthma.

Pyrus Malus. *Crab Apple*. Ηβάλλ Ψιαόαμ ; Δβιλασάν ;  
Ξορτσός.

Used with buttermilk for relaxed throat and hoarseness.

\*A famous tree in Irish legend.

*Crataegus Oxycantha*. *Hawthorn*. Σκαός Ξεαί.

The native roses are listed below :—

- (1) *Rosa spinosissima*. *The Burnet Rose*. Common.
- (2) „ *involuta*. *The Unexpanded Rose*. Uncommon.
- (3) „ *mollis*. *The Softleaved Rose*. Rare.
- (4) „ *Hibernica*. *The Irish Glabrous Rose*. Very rare, N.E. only.
- (5) „ *tomentosa*. *The Downy Leaved Rose*. Frequent.
- (6) „ *rubiginosa*. *The Sweet Briar Rose*. N.E., frequent.
- (7) „ *micrantha*. *The Small-flowered Sweetbriar*.  
Cork and Kerry.
- (8) „ *sepium*. *The Bush Rose*.
- (9) „ *Canina*. *The Dog Rose*. Common.
- (10) „ *glauca*. Rare.
- (11) „ *arvensis*. *The Trailing Rose*. Fairly frequent.
- (12) „ *sabina*. *Sabine Rose*.

*Rose*.—The various Irish renderings are :—Rór ; Conpór ;  
Cocán ; Plúirín, γml. Fírdóruir (Wild Rose Tree).

*Corn Rose*—Cáilicín ; Cailleac Óearḡ ; Uíac na mBóac ;  
Luirḡneac Óearḡ.

*Damask Rose*—Cocán Uíac ; Rór Ueacḡán.

*Wild Rose*—Rór Fíacḡam ; Rór Mḡora Ruacḡ.

*Rock Rose*—Plúir na Ξréme.

The *Rosa Rubiginosa*, or *Sweet Briar*, is probably the  
*Rose of Jerusalem*, Rór na ḡamḡíoḡna Múire of which

“ Men saw the thorns on Jesus’ brow,  
But angels saw the roses.”

### SAXIFRAGEAE.

*Saxifraga Umbrosa*. *London Pride*. Ξabáirce (Cabáirce)  
Óadome Maíte ; Ξabáirce Maḡraí Ruacḡ.

*Chrysosplenium Oppustifolium*. *Golden Saxifrage*. Ξloirur.

*Parnassia Palustris*. *Grass of Parnassus*. Fíonnán ḡán.

*Saxifraga Granulata*.

*Meadow Saxifrage* ; and  
*Saxifraga Aizoides*.

*Yellow Mountain  
Saxifrage*.

} Míonán Múire ; Mḡrán.

*Ribes Grossularia*. *Gooseberry*. Spriúnán ; Spíonán ; Ξroḡarḡ ;  
Spíonḡ.

- Ribes Rubrum. *Red Currant*. Ραοραρ Όεαρς; Σπιονάν Όεαρς; Όεαρκός Όεαρς.  
 Ribes Nigrum. *Black Currant*. Ραοραρ Όυβ; Σπιονάν Όυβ; Όεαρκός Ό. β.  
 Ribes Album. *White Currant*. Ραοραρ Όάν; Σπιονάν Όάν; Όεαρκός Όάν.

### CRASSULACEAE.

- Cotyledon Umbilicus-Veneris. *Pennywort*. Κορηάν Λεακάιν; Κορηάν Κάιριλ; Λυρ να Ρινγνε.  
 Sedum Telephium. *Orpine*. Λυρ να Λαοξ.  
 Sedum Acre. *Wall Pepper* or *Biting Stone Crop*. Σηραάν να ςCloc; Λυραηε να Σεαγζάν.  
 Produces vomiting.  
 Sempervivum Tectorum. *House Leek*. Τοηρηίν; Λυρ αν Τόιτεάν; Ορη; Σιμείν. Σταν-εαγλα.  
 Formerly grown on roofs as a charm against fires.

### DROSERACEAE.

- Drosera Rotundifolia. *Round-leaved Sundew*. Όεαλτριαρό; Λυρ να Φεαρναηξε.  
 Drosera Anglica. *Great Sundew*. Όρηύέτιν Μόνα; Ρόρ αν τCotuir; Καίτη Μυηε.  
 This plant is characteristic of the peat bogs, where it is found in abundance.

### HALORAGEAE.

- Hippuris Vulgaris. *Mare's Tail*. Κάιτι Cολλαγάν.  
 Myriophyllum Verticillatum. *Water Milfoil*. Φλιοθ ύηρηε; Σνάιτε Όάρτε; Λινηεραά.

### LYTHRARIEAE.

- Lythrum Salicaria. *Purple Loosestrife*. Cρηαάτα; Όεαλάν Λεάνα; Όρηαν Όρηάξ; Λυρ να Σιοτέάνα; Cοναηε; Εαρηβαλλ Cυτιν.

The title Cρηαάτα (*wound plant*) would suggest its use as a wound remedy. I have not met any herbalists who use it internally or externally at the present day.

## ONAGRARIEAE.

- Epilobium Angustifolium.* *Rose-bay Willow Herb.* Róir  
Sáiteós na mBileós Cúmhans.  
*Circaea Lutetiana.* *Enchanter's Nightshade.* Fumrēac ;  
Fumrēasat.

## UMBELLIFERAE.

- Hydrocotyle Vulgaris.* *Marsh Pennywort.* Lur pinge  
(Cupraig).  
*Eryngium Maritimum.* *Sea Holly.* Cuiteann Trága.  
*Sanicula Europaea.* *Wood Sanicle.* Bóán Coilleadó.

Is employed as a haemostatic internally and externally.

- Conium Maculatum.* *Hemlock.* Mumhēar ; Corrán fáil ;  
Danne-Cioc-Éan.

An excellent anodyne poultice is made by mixing the leaves with linseed meal. Is used also for the cure of "evil." It is given internally, never alone, but in combination with other herbs in a variety of diseases.

- Smyrniolum Olusatrum.* *Alexanders.* Lur na nSrán Dub ;  
Luráran Srán Dub.

One of the vegetables formerly cultivated, but now unknown.

- Apium Graveolens.* *Wild Celery.* Lur na Smáiteós.  
*Cicuta Virosa.* *Water Hemlock.* Tréanlur ; Feallaóos ;  
Dacáda Bán.

Thought to be the poison that killed Socrates. Like the true Hemlock it is used as a curative poultice in glandular swellings which have suppurated.

- Petroselinum Sativum.* *Parsley.* Peirrit ; Fionnar Sarraróe.  
Naturalized on old buildings. Used as a garnish.

- Carum Carui.* *Caraway.* Carábuasó ; Cearbur ; Lur mhc  
Cúimín ; Amír.

Seems naturalised in parts of Ireland, but is rare.

- Sium Latifolium.* *Water Parsnip.* Meacan thre.

Is used for scrofulous swellings in the neck in combination with garlic and butter.

- Aegopodium Podagraria.* *Goutweed.* Lur an Sútá ; Lur an  
Earbuig.

The leaves are boiled and made into a poultice, which is applied to the painful parts. Is used also for sciatica.

- Pimpinella Saxifraga.* *Burnet Saxifrage.* Cλαδρυρ.  
*Pimpinella Magna.* *Greater Burnet Saxifrage.* Cλαδρυρ Μόρ.  
 Both of these grow on chalky ground, and are said to increase the milk of cows.
- Conopodium Denudatum.* *Pig-nut, or Common Earth Nut.*  
 Cνό Τατμάν; Cnúταρλάν; Cυταρλάν; Cοιцеарάν  
 Mυιце; Ppáιτιní Cluταρacáin.  
 The roots are roasted and eaten by boys, to whom they are known as "Fairy Potatoes."
- Myrrhis odorata.* *Sweet Cicely.* Λυρ Δίμλεόγζε.  
 A garden escape naturalized in a few parts.
- Chaerophyllum Temulum.* *Rough Chervil.* Λυρ na Ríocac; Camán Σαλλ.  
*Scandix Pecten-Veneris.* *Shepherd's Needle.* Cρεαζαc.  
*Anthriscus Sylvestris.* *Cow Parsley.* Cορ υιρce.  
*Foeniculum Officinale.* *Fennel.* Pméal Mυιце; Λυρ an τCαοι.  
*Crithmum Maritimum.* *Samphire.* Λυρ na σCnám; Cnámλυρ.  
*Oenanthe Fistulosa.* *Water Dropwort.* Tpeánλυρ Όραοναc.  
*Oenanthe Crocata.* *Hemlock Water Dropwort.* Tpeánλυρ Όραοναc an Cυρραις.  
*Oenanthe Phellandrium.* *Horsebane.* NímCαρall; Σρεαδάνmín.  
*Aethusa Cynapium.* *Fool's Parsley.* Pειρριλ Δαμαρο.  
*Ligusticum Scoticum.* *Scottish Lovage.* Sunair; Λυρ an Λιαγαρε; Λυρ an λυγαρε.  
*Angelica Sylvestris.* *Wild Angelica.* Σαλλυανάν Pιαδαιν; Caimneός mίγε; C. Mυιце.  
*Paeucedenum Sativum.* *Wild Parsnip.* Meacan Ριος Pιαδαιν.  
*Heracleum Sphondylium.* *Cow Parsnip; Hogweed.* Cυιρροίν Όán; Όδαρán; Pεαδρán; Pυαρán; Pλεαρcán; Pλεαδρán.  
*Daucus Carota.* *Wild Carrot.* Όυρςοmán; Mυςοmán; Mιοδλυcán.

### ARALIACEAE.

- Hedera Helix.* *Ivy.* Eίρνεán; Pείρνεán; Eίρδεαν.  
 Recommended in a bath as an astringent for "soft" or perspiring feet.

### CORNACEAE.

- Cornus Sanguinea.* *Dogwood.* Cρανν Cοιρρénéι; Cρανν Mυcόρa.



### CAPRIFOLIACEAE.

- Sambucus Nigra*. *Elder*. Τρομ; Βαλτράρ; Ρυρ,-ε.  
The flowers were formerly official in the British Pharmacopoea. An ointment made from the leaves was a popular Dublin remedy for piles. Elderberry wine has been lately recommended for sciatica.
- Sambucus Ebulus*. *Dwarf Elder* or *Danewort*. Ρείτ; Ρείτ Όος; Μολυρτ; Ρλιού αν Όαλλα; Όαλλφυρτ; Λυρ να ηΌαναρ.  
Said to grow where battles were fought against the Danes.
- Viburnum Opulus*. *Guelder Rose*. Αν Ρόρ ηολόηόαδ.  
Originally introduced from Guelduland in Holland.
- Lonicera Periclymenum*. *Woodbine*; *Honeysuckle*. Τάτ-φετεαηη; Ρείτελόσ; Λυρ να μεαλα.

### RUBIACEAE.

- Rubia Peregrina*. *Madder*. μαδαρ.  
The root contains a red dye, but does not seem to have been employed for this purpose. The plant is not common in Ireland, and is always found near the coast.
- Galium Verum*. *Lady's Bedstraw*. Ρύ Μυρτε; Όαλαδ Όηρ.  
*Galium Saxatile*. *Heath Bedstraw*. Λυρ να όφεαρ ηΜεαδ; Λυθ να όφεαρ ηζοντα; Μαδαρ Ρηαοιζ.  
*Galium Palustre*. *Marsh Bedstraw*. Ρύ αν Όυρρηαιζ.  
*Galium Aparine*. *Goosegrass*, *Robin-run-the-hedge*. ζαρόλυρ; Λυρ ζαρθ.  
There are several other varieties of Galium native to Ireland, but they are rare and difficult to identify. The title "Herb of the little men" is given to both Galium Saxatile (*Heath Bedstraw*) and Galium Palustre (*Marsh Bedstraw*). Perhaps to other varieties also.  
The Galium Aparine was used as an application to ulcers, and was especially used for cancerous growths that had ulcerated surfaces. It was cut up and applied *en masse* to the affected surface. The juice was given internally at the same time.
- Asperula Odorata*. *Wood-Ruff*. Λυρ Μολαδ; Μολεαρ.  
Used in flavouring wine.
- Sherardia Arvensis*. *Field Madder*. Όαλλα Όηρ Όονκυλαηη; Όεαρζ Ραλλε.  
Used as a dye.

### VALERIANEAE.

*Valeriana Officinalis. Wild Valerian.* Λυρ να ρΤρῖ μΘιλλε;  
 Καορτάν Κυρραιζ. Λυρ να ρΤρῖ μΘαλλάν.

The volatile oil contained in the rhizome and root is an excellent remedy for "nervy" and hypersensitive folk. It is used internally and externally.

### DIPSACEAE.

*Dipsacus Sylvestris. Teasel.* Λεαθάν Λιορτα; Λυρ να Λεαθάν;  
 Λεαθάν αν ὕκαιρε; Λυρ αν ἔύκαρδοίη.

*Scabiosa Succisa. Devil's Bit.* Σπειμ αν Οιαθαυ; Οθαυαδ  
 Μυλλαιζ.

*Scabiosa Arvensis. Field Scabious.* Βοθαδ Σορμ; Οιοιζνε  
 Σορμα.

### COMPOSITAE.

*Eupatorium cannabinum. Hemp Agrimony.* Ονάιβ υίρρε;  
 Μαρθόρμαίρεαν.

*Solidago Virgo-aurea. Golden Rod.* Σιατ Οίη; Λυθ αν  
 ἔαλλραορα;\* Λυθ αν Εαρα; Λυθ Ναιοίμ Σεάν.

\*The "herb of the palsy" is a well known remedy amongst herbalists for what doctors call neurasthenia. It is said to have worked wonders in cases of general apathy and depression. There is a certain ritual to be gone through, however, whilst taking the remedy. But as some who have benefited by the treatment say, "These things (i.e., the ceremonies prescribed besides the actual ingestion of the medicine) are only pishogues."

*Bellis perennis. Daisy.* νόμιν.

*Aster tripolium. Sea Starwort.* Λυθ Βλέιμε; Λυρ Σιοτάμ.

*Erigeron acre. Blue Fleabane.* Λυρ Σορμ να ηΘεαναταίητι  
 (Θρεανκαρο).

*Filago germanica. Common Cudweed.* Κάθλυθ; Σηαβλυρ.

*Gnaphalium sylvaticum. Upright Cudweed.* Λιατλυρ Βεαδ;  
 Λοκάλλ Καοτ.

*Inula Helenium. Elecampane.* Αιλλεαν; Μεακαν Αιλιμν.

According to Praeger, an obvious relic of cultivation to be found in the neighbourhood of the ancient monastic establishments.

*Inula salicina*. *Willow-leaved Inula*. Λυρ Ὀρέιμπεαὶς καὶ  
 π'Οεαναταίριτι.

“Confined in the British Isles to the shores of Lough  
 Derg.”—Praeger.

*Inula Crithmoides*. *Golden Samphire*. Ξειρξίν; Ξηρολογίη.

*Pulicaria Dysenterica*. *Fleabane*. Λυρ Βυρθε καὶ π'Οεανα-  
 ταίριτι; Λυρ καὶ ἑσορκαριτ; Ὀρεανκαρο Ὀιβεαρταὶς.

*Calendula Officinalis*. *Garden Marigold*. Βλατ Ἰμυριε;  
 Λιατάν; Ὀρ Ἰμυριε.

Is an escape from cultivation. Was used to impart a  
 deep colour to butter. Externally it is used in the  
 form of a lotion for wounds, sprains, and bruises.  
 Internally it is recommended as a uterine tonic.

*Achillaea Millefolium*. *Yarrow, Milfoil*. Δταίρι Ταίριαν;  
 Λυρ καὶ φολα. Λυρ καὶ ἑστυαρ.

Was powdered and used as a snuff in congestive headache,  
 to draw blood from the nose. Was also recommended  
 as a cure for toothache, the patient being advised to  
 chew the leaves. Boyle is said to have worn a  
 little muslin bag of it as a protective charm against  
 ague.

*Achillaea Ptarmica*. *Sneezewort*. Ροίβε; Κυραὸλυρ.

*Anthemis Nobilis*. *Chamomile*. Ριοξωτάν; other varieties:—  
 Καμάν Μιοντα; Ρινέατ Μαύρα. γητ.

The flowers on analysis show nine definite compounds.  
 The synthetic chemistry of Nature is still able to point  
 the finger of scorn at the products of the laboratories.  
 Internally the flowers are used as anodyne stupes.  
 Internally chamomile tea is excellent for the windy  
 dyspepsia of old people.

*Chrysanthemum Sergetum*. *Corn Marigold*. Βυαδαλάν  
 (Βυαφανάν) Βυρθε; Βιτε Βυρθε; Ἰτὸβλατ Ὀρῶα.

Is said to diminish sweating.

*Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*. *Ox Eye Daisy; Dog Daisy*.  
 Σύιτ Ὀαίη; Νόμιν Μόρ; Εαρβοξάν.

*Matricaria Inodora*. *Scentless Fever Few*. Μεαδ-βυαδ;  
 Μεαδ Ὀρμαδ; Λυρ Ὀεαρταν.

Used in uterine irregularities. As a preventative of  
 insect bites.

*Tanacetum Vulgare*. *Tansy*. Λυρ καὶ ὀφρανκαδ; Φρανκλυρ;  
 (Black) Λυρ καὶ ὀφεαδός.

Is said to be useful in expelling intestinal worms. Was a remedy for gout. Is a popular flavouring ingredient in "drisheen." The latter is an excellent table delicacy made from sheep's blood and milk, enclosed in a casing of sheep gut.

*Artemisia Absinthium. Worm Wood.* Μορμόντα; Θορμόντα.  
One of the cures for falling sickness. Also used as an insecticide.

*Artemisia Vulgaris. Mugwort.* Μυζάρι; Λιατλί; Θυάκαλαν (Λιατ) Θάν; Μονζάκ-μεαρζα.

Also used as an anti-epileptic.

*Artemisia Abrotanum. Southern Wood.* Λίρι αν τSean-  
tuine; Συρραβάν.

*Tussilago Farfara. Coltsfoot.* Σπονν; Θυιλλεαδαρ Σπυιινν; Θυιλεός Σπυιινν; Σαλλάν Σρεαννέαιρ; Λιυθ 1 η-αζαρθ Κοραάτακ.

The leaves are used for asthma and spasmodic bronchial affections. Extract of Coltsfoot is an ingredient in some modern bronchial lozenges.

*Petasites Fragrans. Winter Heliotrope.* Πλίρ να Σρέιμε;  
Σρέιμρεϊσεακ.

*Petasites Officinalis. Butterbur.* Θορράν.

*Senecio Vulgaris. Groundsel.* Σποννλί; Σπύνλί; Θυάκαλαν  
να ηεαρκαράν.

Said to be a vermifuge. Before Castor Oil had attained its popularity as a safe and efficient purgative for children it was the practice in Ireland to add a sprig or two (according to age) of groundsel to the milk, which was then boiled, strained, and given to constipated babies.

*Senecio Jacobaea. Ragwort, or St. James's Wort.* Θυάκαλαν  
Θυρθε; Ψεαν Ταλμαν; Θολτάν Θυρθε; Κυρεός  
Θυρθε.

The leaves were applied to foul wounds and sores of animals in the form of a poultice. Was not used in human therapeutics except as an ingredient in application for cancer.

*Senecio Aquaticus. Marsh Ragwort. (Fairies' Broomstick).*  
Σαμάθ Κυρραϊζ.

The pounded leaves were applied as poultice to suppurating wounds.

*Carlina Vulgaris. Carline Thistle.* ῥεόκαοάν μίν.  
*Arctium Lappa. Burdock.* Κοκόιτ; Κραοάν (Κναοάν); μεακαν  
 Τοβὰς; μεακαν Όοζα; Καρός Τυαιτίτ.

There are three varieties to be found everywhere in Ireland, majus, intermedium, minus. This division relates only to size. Plant contains Inulin, Carbonate of Potash and Nitre.

Recommended as a blood purifier. Externally was applied to glandular swellings.

*Cnicus Lanceolatus. Spear Thistle.* ῥεόκαοάν; ῥοτάννάν.

*Cnicus Palustris. Marsh Thistle.* ῥεόκαοάν Κυρραιζ.

*Cnicus Pratenses. Bog Thistle.* Κλυτράν λέανα.

*Silybum Marianum. Milk Thistle.* θεάρνάν ὕρεακ.

Said to stimulate the flow of milk in nurses.

*Centaurea Nigra. Black Knapweed.* Κναράν Όυβ; Μυλλεσ  
 Όυβ; Νιανρκοτ.

*Centaurea Cyanus. Corn Blue Bottle.* Σορμάν; λυρ Σορμάν;  
 Κορρε Σορμ.

*Cichorium Intybus. Chicory.* λυρ αν τσιύκαϊρε; ὕαρρυσον  
 μόρ.

Said to be a waif of cultivation, evidently used when coffee was the prevailing drink.

*Lapsana Communis. Nipple Wort.* Όυιλλεός (ὀιλλεός)  
 ὕρμζοε; Όυιλλεός μάιτ.

*Picris Echioides. Bristly Ox Tongue.* Τεανζα ὀό; ὀοζλυρ.

*Picris Hieracioides.*

*Hawk Weed.*

*Hieracium Pilosella.*

*Mouse Ear Hawk Weed.*

λυρ να Σεαθὰς; Σεαρῶν  
 να Μυκ.

*Taraxacum Officinale. Dandelion.* Καϊρεαρῶν (Καιρτρεαρῶν);  
 C—. Καοι ὀεαρζ; C—. Κορ ὀεαρζ.

The root contains Taraxcin, Taraxacerin, Inulin, and Potash. It is best collected in autumn.

*Sonchus Oleraceus. Sow-Thistle.* ὀαινε Μυϊσε; Λειτίρ  
 Σεϊρρῆιαθ; ὀυιοτ ῥεόκαοάν.

*Tragopogon Pratensis. Goat's Beard.* ῥεαρός ζαῶαιρ;  
 ζαῶαιρῦτὰ; ῥινροϊζ να Μυκ.

**CAMPANULACEAE.**

- Lobelia Dortmanna.* *Water Lobelia.* πλύρ an locám.  
*Jasione Montana.* *Sheep's Scabious.* Cab an Deapám; Cab  
 an ξαράν.  
*Campanula Rotundifolia.* *Hare-bell.* Upr na gComhle gCarac;  
 Meapacán gorm.

**VACCINIEAE.**

- Vaccinium Vitis-Idaea.* *Cowberry.* Doðeapc; Dpaitleðs.  
*Vaccinium Myrtillus.* *Bilberry or Whortleberry.* Fpaocán;  
 Fpaocós.  
*Vaccinium Oxycoccus.* *Cranberry.* Corpán; Muileðs;  
 Mionós; Cpúibín.

**ERICACEAE.**

- Arbutus Unedo.* *Strawberry Tree.* Cpánn Suð-Éalmáin.  
*Arctostaphylos Uva-Ursi.* *Bearberry.* Upr na Stalós.  
*Andromeda Polifolia.* *Marsh Andromeda.* Fpaoc Cprraið.  
*Calluna Vulgaris.* *Ling.* Fpaoc.  
*Erica Tetralix.* *Crossleaved Heath.* Fpaoc an Rummpe; Fpaoc  
 naopcaige.  
*Erica Cinerea.* *Bell Heather.* Fpaoc Fipeann.  
*Erica Mediterranea.* *Mediterranean Heath.* Fpaoc Camóðac.  
*Daboecia Polifolia.* *St. Daboec's Heath.* Fpaoc gAllða;  
 Fpaoc na h-ðom-ðoipe.

**PLUMBAGINEAE.**

- Statice Kariflora.* *Looseflowered Sea Lavender.* Upr liað na  
 Maða.  
*Armeria Maritima.* *Sea Pink or Thrift.* Tonm an Élavaið;  
 Nómin an Élavaið; Cip Cpáða. Prob. cibt.

**PRIMULACEAE.**

- |                          |                    |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Primula Vulgaris</i>  | } Samapcín; Paðcán | } Both indiscrimi- |
| <i>Primrose.</i>         |                    |                    |
| <i>Primula Officina-</i> | } ðamne-ðó-ðáme;   | } ðeacán Duirðe;   |
| <i>lis. Cowslip.</i>     |                    |                    |
- Is said to be narcotic. Cowslips were given in insemnia.

- Lysimachia Vulgaris.* *Yellow Loosestrife.* Λυρ na Σιόττάνα (Θυρόε).  
*Lysimachia Nummularia.* *Moneywort ; Creeping Jenny.*  
 Λυρ an Oá Þινγιν.  
*Lysimachia Nemorum.* *Yellow Pimpernel.* Λυρ Çoluimçille ;  
 Seamar Μυιρε; Λυραιρε na ηΥιρόθρε; Λυρ na Μαγθρεana  
 Μυιρε.  
*Anagallis Arvensis.* *Scarlet Pimpernel ; Shepherd's Weather  
 Glass.* Φαλçαιρε Φυαρ ; Φαλçαιρε Φιαðam ; Λυθ na Μυç.  
*Anagallis Tenella.* *Bog Pimpernel.* Φαλçαιρε Çυρραιç.  
*Samolus Valerandi.* *Brook Weed.* Φαλçαιρε an Υιρεç.

### OLEACEAE.

- Fraxinus Excelsior.* *Ash.* Φυμνηρεðç ; Νυμ.  
 The bark is recommended in the form of a foot bath for  
 tender feet.  
*Ligustrum Vulgare.* *Privet.* Þρυμέað ; Çορ Λυατράρ.

### GENTIANEAE.

- Erythraea Centaurium.* *Centaury.* Çεað-θυιλλεað ; Θρέιμυρε  
 Μυιρε ; Θρέιμυρε Θυρε.  
 Used as a tonic ; also given internally for muscular  
 rheumatism.  
*Gentiana Amarella.* *Felwort.* Μυιλλçεann.  
*Menyanthes Trifoliata.* *Bog Bean.* Þónαιρε Çαραιιι ; Þónαιρε  
 Çυρραιç ; Θεαρναν Λαçám ; Þαçαρán ; Þón an Çαραιιι.  
 A bitter tonic and cathartic. Has been recommended for  
 rheumatism.

### BORAGINEAE.

- Symphytum Officinale.* *Comfrey.* Λυρ na çÇnám mΘυριρε ;  
 Μεαçan Oυθ.  
 Is said to be of use in knitting fractures in bones if taken  
 internally ; it was also bound round the site of fracture.  
 Said to have been formerly used for fattening pigs.  
*Myosotis Palustris.* *Forget-me-not.* Σύιι an Çυιρε ; Λυρ Μίιιτε ;  
 Λυρ Μίιιιι.  
*Echium Vulgare.* *Viper's Bugloss.* Λυρ na Çεανçan ; Çεανça  
 na Νατραç ; Λυρ na Νατραç.  
*Borago Officinalis.* *Borage.* Θορραιριρε çÇορμ.

**CONVOLVULACEAE.**

- Calystegia Sepium.* *Great Bind Weed.* Cyprián Capta; Ιαδύρι.  
*Convolvulus Arvensis.* *Small Bind Weed.* Ουιλλίμεαλ.  
*Cuscuta Epithymum.* *Dodder.* Γιούδαν (θεαίης).

**SOLANACEAE.**

- Solanum Dulcamara.* *Bitter Sweet.* Σεαυός μίλιρ; λυρ να η-Οιόσε, Στατ ζοριμ; Ψατζοριμ.

Is narcotic like most herbs of this order. Its name (λυρ να η-Οιόσε) would suggest that it was formerly used to promote sleep. None of the present-day herbalists use it.

- Hyoscyamus Niger.* *Henbane.* Χαοό να Ξεαίρ; Θεόδα; Ξαράν; Ξράν Ξαράν.

Occurs sparsely but throughout the country. It is of immense importance in modern medicine; its leaves are a source of the powerful alkaloids Hyoscyamine and Hyoscyamine.

- Atropa Belladonna.* *Deadly Nightshade.* Μιοτός Όυρθε; λυρ μόρ Κοιλεσθ.

Has established itself as a native on the shores of Coney Island, in the river Fergus, and on the shores of Lough Mask, near Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. Was known, as is evident from the Irish rendering, in ancient times.

**SCROPHULARINEAE.**

- Verbascum Thapsus.* *Great Mullein.* Κοινεατ μίυριε; λυρ μόρ.

In the past this plant bore a great reputation for curing consumption; an ounce of the dried leaves was boiled in a pint of milk, which was then strained and given to the patient at intervals during the day. Modern herbalists use the same decoction for the cure of diarrhoea. A poultice of the leaves was applied as a cure for "running sores."

- Digitalis Purpurea.* *Foxglove.* λυρ μόρ θαινεαν; μέαριacán να μβαν Σίθε. Σιούάν Σιέιθε. λυρ να μβαν Σίθε.

It is hard to determine why the title "Great Herb" should be conferred on this plant except on the



assumption that its virtues were recognised. I personally know of only one instance in which the herb was used by the unorthodox practitioner in recent times. The old men and women "with the charms" will always deny their use of it in internal medicine. They admit its use as an ingredient in ointments for scrofulous swellings. A modern clinician, referring to the use of *Digitalis* in cardiac disease, states "*Digitalis* deserves no reproach when it fails in many of these cases, for it always will and must fail until some drug is found which can develop new tissue for old; and when such a drug is found, to use a Biblical expression, 'there will be no sorrow, neither will there be any more pain,' and possibly, I may add, neither will there be death."

*Linaria Vulgaris. Toad Flax.* Λορcάν-λίον Βυρθε.

Was not used medicinally. *Linum catharticum*, *q.v.*, also called *Fairy Flax*, is the herb used by the herbalists.

*Linaria Elatine. Fluellin.* Σεαμαρ Cριαθ (Cpé); Λυρ Cpé.  
(See *Speedwell*).

The first form of the Irish rendering denotes the "male," the second the "female" herb. One cannot explain this system of sex morphology on any other than the grammatical basis. There are only two genders in Irish, masculine and feminine, there being no neuter. One can easily conjure up the reason why a plant in fruit would be relegated to the female sex and earlier in its life history, before pollination occurs, to the male sex.

*Scrophularia Aquatica. Water Figwort; Water Betony.*

Όύντυρ Υίρce. Σύγ Ρεαρνα. Βιαόταρ Υίρce.

One of the many herbs used as a cleanser of wounds by local application and internal medication.

*Scrophularia Nodosa. Knotted Figwort.* Λυρ na γCnapán; Ροτρυμ; Ραραθ Όυθ; Όύντυρ.

While *Digitalis* is known as the queen of herbs, *S. nodosa* is said to be the king. An ointment was made from the knots or knobs powdered and mixed with lard. This ointment was applied to relieve piles and skin lesions of all kinds. A similar preparation is used by farmers in the treatment of farcy in horses.

Veronica. *Speedwell*. Λυρ να Βαναλτρα; (also Σεαμαρ Ἐρέ and Λυρ Ἐρέ.)

As the name implies, was used by nursing mothers for sore breasts. There are fourteen varieties of Veronica found native to Ireland.

Veronica anagallis aquatica. *Water Speedwell*. Ψυλακταίρ.

Veronica Beecabunga. *Brooklime*. Λοκαί Μοταίρ; Βιολαρ ἡμυρε; Λοκαί.

All the varieties of Veronica besides *V. officinalis* were used in coughs proceeding from chest trouble of any kind. The *V. serpyllifolia* (*Thyme-leaved Speedwell*) was and is to-day the classic remedy for whooping-cough. This herb is known in Irish as Λυρ να Τρεατα.

Euphrasia officinalis. *Eyebright*. Λιον Ραδαρ; Σοιλλρε να Σút; Λυρ να Λεα.

Is an astringent. Was used in respiratory and eye trouble, and especially in measles where both occur.

A special variety is peculiar to the West, viz., *E. Salisburgensis*. It flowers in July and August, with white medium sized blossoms and rich dark coppery brown foliage.

Pedicularis Palustris, Pedicularis Sylvatica, Rhinanthus Christi-galli. *Lousewort or Rattle*. Μιλ-ξαδαίρ; Λυρ αν ξιουλα; Λυρ Ριαδα; Βοσαν Κιοιζίν; Μιλρεάν Μόνα; Μαοτλάν Μόνα.

### OROBANCHEAE.

Orobanche Rubra. *Red Broom Rape*. } Σιορ; Σιορλας;

Orobanche Hederae. *Ivy Broome Rape*. } Μυκος.

Orobanche Major. *Greater Broom Rape*. Σπατμαν.

Orobanche Major is rare; the Red Broom Rape is found only in the West and North, and the Ivy Broome Rape chiefly in the South.

Lathraea Squamaria. *Tooth Wort*. Λυρ να ὄφιακαί.

### LENTIBULARIEAE.

Utricularia Vulgaris. *Bladderwort*. Λυρ αν ὄρραϊς.

Pinguicula Vulgaris. *Butterwort*. Λιαίτ; Λεϊτ-υρρε; Μεαρκαν; Βοσαν-μεαρκαν; ὄρῶσα να κυμαϊς.

Λείτ-υίρce denotes the disease of Liver Fluke in Sheep, and is always contracted on moist lands where this herb is also found. The leaves possess the property of curdling milk.

### VERBENACEÆ.

Verbena Officinalis. *Vervain*. Γρύβα Λεόμαιν; Βυρῶεαδ.

It was worn round the neck for scrofula. Is found in the limestone districts in the South; is rare in the North.

### LABIATAÆ.

Mentha Rotundifolia. *Round-leaved Mint*. Μενταύρ; Μιοντ; Μιονταρ.

Mentha piperita. *Peppermint*. Λυρ αν Πιοβαίρ.

Mentha hirsuta. *Watermint*. Πιρίμιν; Καίρτεαλ; Μιρίμιν; Μιρίμιν Όεαρς.

Mentha arvensis. *Cornmint*. Μιονταρ Αρβόαιρ.

Mentha Pulegium. *Pennyroyal*. Δράν Ξλαρ; Όροβζαδ.

The mints are said to have been introduced, and are spreading, especially in the South. The above species and Mentha sativa are now classed as natives.

Lycopus europaeus. *Gipsywort*. Ψεόράν Κυρραϊς.

An ingredient in cough cures. Said to be used by gipsies for colour effect on the complexion.

Origanum vulgare. *Marjoram*. Οράζάν; Μάιρτείν Φιαόαιν.

Has the botanic title originated from the Irish appellation? The oil extracted from the plant is used as an application for rheumatic joints.

Thymus Serpyllum. *Wild Thyme*. Λυρ μίε Ρίς Όρεαταίν.

Used in the treatment of whooping-cough; is antispasmodic and carminative.

Salvia Verbenaca. *Clary or Wild Sage*. Ceann Cinncoille;

Τορμάν; Σάίρτε Όνιε; Σάίρτε Φιαόαιν; Δαίρ Λιαδ.

Teucrium scorodonia. *Wood Sage*. Σάίρτε Όιλλεαδ.

These are the only native sages. Sage is recommended for intestinal colic. There is an old Irish saying—

“ 1ρ μαίρς वोιζεόβαδ βάρ 7 αν Σάίρτε αρ αν ζενοδ.”  
(While the sage is on the mountain no one should die).

Nepeta Glechoma. *Ground Ivy*. Δαίρ-Λυρ; Ερῶνεάν Τατμάν.

It was given in the form of an infusion for bronchitis.

It is also recommended as a tonic and diuretic.

*Prunella Vulgaris. Self-heal.* Λυρ αν Ἐρωίδε ; Σεαννάβαν  
 θεας ; Ουβάνιν αν τσεανούρ ; Ουβάν Σεαννάραδ ;  
 Τέ να ηζαρρδαντα.

Was used to make "Cailleach's Tea," recommended for  
 a "weak" heart.

*Marrubium Vulgare. White Horehound.* Ζηραφάν βάν.

A household remedy in the form of tea or candy for colds  
 and coughs. It is not a true native.

*Ballota Nigra. Black Horehound.* Ζηραφάν Ουβ ; Ουρέανλυρ.

The leaves are used in the form of a poultice for ulceration  
 of the skin.

*Stachys Betonica. Betony.* Λυρ θεατάις ; Λυρ μίη θεατάις.

Is rare in Ireland.

*Stachys palustris. Marsh Woundwort.* Ουίλλεός να σαορ.

*Stachys sylvatica. Hedge Woundwort.* Σεαττυρ.

Both of the above were used as applications to fresh wounds.

*Galeopsis Tetrahit. Common Hemp Nettle.* Ζατ Όιρδε.

*Lamium amplexicaule. Henbit.* ηεανντός μίιριε.

*Lamium purpureum. Red Dead Nettle.* ηεανντός Όεαρς ;  
 ηεανντός Ἐαός ; η— μάρθ.

*Lamium album. White Dead Nettle.* ηεανντός Όβαν.

*Ajuga reptans. Common Bugle.* μεακαν Ουβ ριαόαιη ;  
 Ζηραριρ Ἐοίλλεαδ.

Vulnerary and general healing application.

### PLANTAGINEAE.

*Plantago major. Waybread, Plaintain.* Κορός ράοραις ;  
 Κρό ράοραις ; Κρυαδ ράοραις.

Connected with the life of St. Patrick, legendary and  
 traditional.

*Plantago lanceolata. Ribwort.* Στάνλυρ.

The leaves of both P. major and P. lanceolata were  
 applied to wounds and sores of all kinds.

### ILLECEBRACEAE.

*Scleranthus annuus. Knawell.* Καθαριρ μίιριε ; Μιονάν  
 μίιριε ; Λυρ Όρεα.

Is given in urinary complaints. Is a favourite herb with the  
 herbalists of the present day. It is given by them in all  
 diseases accompanied by a disordered urinary function.

**CHENOPODIACEAE.**

- Chenopodium album.* *White Goosefoot.* Λυγ Κοιρε Ξε (βάν);  
 ρραιρεαδ φιαδαιμ.  
*Chenopodium rubrum.* *Red Goosefoot.* Λυγ Κοιρε Ξε (δεαρξ).  
*Chenopodium murale.* *Nettle-leaved Goosefoot.* ρραιρεαδ να  
 μηδαιλα; ρ—, αν φαιλα.  
*Chenopodium Bonus Henricus.* *All Good, Wild Spinach.*  
 ρραιρεαδ υραταρ.  
*Beta maritima.* *Sea Beet.* υιαδωταρ; υειν-ε φιαδαιμ.

**POLYGONACEAE.**

- Polygonum Convolvulus.* *Black Bindweed.* Ξλυμεαδ ουβ.  
*Polygonum Aviculare.* *Knot Grass.* Ξλυμεαδ υεαξ.  
*Polygonum Hydropiper.* *Water Pepper.* Ξλυμεαδ μηδρ;  
 Ξλυμεαδ τειτ.  
*Polygonum Persicaria.* *Persicaria.* Ξλυμεαδ υεαρξ.  
*Polygonum Bistorta.* *Snakeweed.* κοροξ ηιμε; στωιρε.  
*Rumex obtusifolius.* *Broad-leaved Dock.* κοροξ φρατωε;  
 υιλεοξ φρατωε.  
*Rumex Hydrolapathum.* *Great Water Dock.* κοροξ μηδρ υιρσε.  
*Rumex Conglomeratus.* *Sharp Pointed Dock.* κοροξ ξεαρ.  
*Rumex acetosa.* *Sorrel Dock; Sorrel.* σαμαδω; ριβλεαδαν;  
 ρυμνεοξ.

Formerly used as a mordant in dyeing garments.

- Rumex acetosella.* *Sheep's Sorrel.* σαμαδω καοριαδ.

All the above furnish chrysophanic acid. The leaves of *R. acetosella* are said to have been used in former times with fish. The danger attendant on the use of these herbs as a vegetable is evident when one bears in mind the extremely poisonous nature of their contents. *Rumex acetosella* is sometimes given for its diuretic effect.

**EUPHORBIAEAE.**

- |                               |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Euphorbia Hiberna.</i>     | } | υαιννε καοιμ; λυγ αν λεαφαδω;<br>σπυιρρε; υυρθε να ηιηγεαν;<br>μεακαν υυρθε αν τσιειβε;<br>ξεαρηαδω; ερβεαρηα; υεαρ-<br>ξλαοιε (Bog S.); υαιννε να<br>ηεαν. |
| <i>Irish Spurge.</i>          |   |   |
| <i>Euphorbia Helioscopia.</i> |   |   |
| <i>Sun Spurge.</i>            |   |   |
| <i>Euphorbia Peplus.</i>      |   |   |
| <i>Petty Spurge.</i>          |   |   |
| <i>Euphorbia Exigua.</i>      |   |   |
| <i>Dwarf Spurge.</i>          |   |   |

The Irish Spurge has been used in Kerry and other parts to stupefy fish. A small creel filled with the bruised plants is placed in the river, and for several miles down stream its effects are noticeable. The juice is used as an application for warts.

Mercurialis Perennis. *Dog's Mercury*. ῥραιρεαδ ὀράταρ.  
Mercurialis Annuā. *French Mercury*. ῥραιρεαδ ιαριτα.

### URTICACEAE.

Ulmus Montana. *Wych Elm*. λεαμάν; λεαμ.  
Humulus Lupulus. *Hop*. Σαιλ-ῥραιε; Ἰονντιυδ; Σεαρθιυρ;  
Ἰυρ αν λεαυνα.  
Urtica Dioica. }  
Great Nettle. } ἠεαντῶς; ἠεαντα; Καοιφαιλ.  
Urtica Urens. }  
Small Nettle. }  
Parietaria Officinalis. *Wall Pellitory*. φαεθραοιθ; Ἰυρ αν Ὀαλλα;  
μιονταρ (μεαντυρ) Ἰαιριλ.

All the members of this order are diuretics. Parietaria Officinalis is given for its laxative effect and as a safe diuretic.

### MYRICACEAE.

Myrica Gale. *Bog Myrtle*. Ραρολεῶς; Ραροεῶς.

### CUPULIFERAE.

Betula verrucosa. *Dwarf or Knotty Birch*. Βειτ Ἰαρραιγεαδ.  
Betula Pubescens. *Common Birch*. Βειτ.  
Alnus glutinosa. *Alder*. φαρηνῶς; φαρην-α.  
Coryllus Avellana. *Hazel*. Κολλ.  
Quercus Robur. *Oak*. Ὀαιρ (ῤι να Κοιλλε).

The fruits of the oak, acorns (μεαρ να Ὀαριγε, Ὀεαριάν, etc.), are said to produce wasting in cattle. Irish literature contains frequent references to the swine fattened on acorns in the forests.

The mistletoe (*Viscum album*) Ὀρυαδθιυρ, or uite-ίε, and the oak are intimately connected with Druidism.

**SALICINEAE.**

*Salix alba.* *White Willow.* Σαίτεαδ ; Σαίτεός.

The leaves are recommended for the disease known as pip in chickens.

*Salix cinera.* *Common Sallow.* Σιανν Σρίομτα ; Σιανν Σνίομτα.

*Salix Viminalis.* *Osier.* Σαίιρσαίτεαδ ; μαοτάν.

*Populus tremula.* *Aspen.* Εαδαδ ; Σιανν Σριτεαδ.

Salicin, a crystalline glucoside, is obtained from the bark of the various species of *Salix* and *Populus*.

**EMPETRACEAE.**

*Empetrum nigrum.* *Crowberry.* Λυρ να ϖιοννόιζε ; Σαορ ϖιοννόιζε.

**CONIFERAE.**

*Juniperus communis.* *Common Juniper.* Βεάριαν Όριξοε ; ιυδαρ Βεμνε ; Όιορα Λεατρα, γμτ.

*Taxus Baccata.* *Yew.*

*Taxus fastigiata.* *Irish Yew.* } ιυδαρ ; Εό.

The Irish or Florence Court yew is now commonly cultivated, and had its origin at Florence Court demesne County Fermanagh, whence its name. The seedling from which the tree (to be still seen at Florence Court) was produced was found "wild" by George Willis in 1767.

The tree is female, consequently all trees produced by cuttings are also female. The seeds produced by crossing the Irish Yew with the common Yew almost invariably reproduce the typical form, and not the variety. This fact provides an interesting Mendelian study.

The leaves and seeds are poisonous, the berries are not.

The aril or berry induces birds to distribute the seed.

**HYDROCHARIDEAE.**

*Elodea Canadensis.* *Canadian Weed ; Water Thyme.* Τιμ Όιρσε.

*Hydrocharis Morsus-Ranae.* *Frog-bit.* Λυρ Λορσάμ ; Όιορ-μόρ.

## ORCHIDEAE.

- Malaxis Paludosa. *Bog Orchid* (or *Orchis*). Μαζαιρλίν αν  
 Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Neottia Nidus Avis. *Bird's Nest Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν ηἰρο ἔιν.
- Listera Cordata. *Heart-leaved Tway Blade*. Ὅδ-ὄυλλεὸς  
 (αν ἔρρηε).
- Listera Ovata. *Tway Blade*. Ὅδ-ὄυλλεὸς (αν ηἰρ).
- Spiranthes Autumnalis. *Fragrant Lady's Tresses*. Cúilín  
 ἡμυρε.
- Epipactis Latifolia. *Broad-leaved Helleborine*. Μαζαιρλίν  
 Ἐρρηαῖς-ἡρ ἡεῖαν.
- Epipactis Palustris. *Marsh Helleborine*. Μαζαιρλίν Ἐρρηαῖς-  
 ἡρ αν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Orchis Pyramidalis. *Pyramidal Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν να  
 Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Orchis Morio. *Green Winged Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν αν Ἐρρηαῖς  
 Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Orchis Masculata. *Early Purple Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν Ἐρρηαῖς.  
 A reputed aphrodisiac and referred to as such in Brian  
 Merriman's famous Irish poem, "Mediae Noctis  
 Consilium" (Cúilín αν ἡεῖαν Ὅρρηε).
- Orchis incarnata. *Common Marsh Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν ἡἰρ  
 αν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Orchis Latifolia. *Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν  
 ἡεῖαν.
- Orchis Maculata. *Spotted Orchid*. ἡἰρ ὄυλλεὸς; Ἐρρηε  
 ὄυλλε.
- Ophrys Apifera. *Bee Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν να ὄυλλε.
- Ophrys Muscifera. *Fly Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν να Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Conopsea. *Fragrant Orchid*. ἡρ Ἐρρηαῖς; ἡρ  
 Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Intacta. *Close-flowered Orchid*. αν Μαζαιρλίν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Albida. *White Mountain Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν ὄυλλε  
 αν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Viridis. *Frog Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν αν Ἐρρηαῖς;  
 Ἐρρηαῖς αν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Bifolia. *Lesser Butterfly Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν ὄυλλε  
 αν Ἐρρηαῖς.
- Habenaria Chloraleuca. *Greater Butterfly Orchid*. Μαζαιρλίν  
 ἡἰρ αν Ἐρρηαῖς.



## IRIDEAE.

- Iris Pseud-acorus. *Yellow Flag*.  $\rho\epsilon\tau\tau\epsilon\alpha\rho\tau\rho\omicron\mu$ ;  $\text{Soite}\alpha\rho\tau\alpha\rho$ ;  
 $\text{Cup}\epsilon\alpha\tau$ ;  $\text{Seit}\rho\tau\rho\omicron\mu$ .  
 The roots were used in the production of a black dye.

## LILIACEAE.

- Asparagus Officinalis. *Asparagus*.  $\text{Lur Su}\zeta\alpha\acute{\epsilon}$ ;  $\text{Lur P}\rho\alpha\iota\epsilon\rho\acute{\omicron}$ ;  
 $\text{C}\rho\epsilon\alpha\acute{\mu}$   $\mu\upsilon\epsilon$   $\text{P}\iota\alpha\theta\alpha\mu$ .

Is found in Ireland on the Waterford and Wexford coasts, but is more prickly than the cultivated variety.

Asparagus was known as a table vegetable in the days of Swift, and is said to have been introduced from Holland by his patron, Sir Wm. Temple. It was known to the Greeks and Romans in pre-Christian times. The third Irish rendering (*Wild Pig's Garlic*) shows that in former times, as at present, it was not esteemed a delicacy.

It is an excellent kidney stimulant, and is recommended for gout and rheumatism.

- Allium Ursinum. *Ransoms or Wild Garlic*.  $\text{C}\rho\epsilon\alpha\acute{\mu}$ ;  $\text{C}\eta\epsilon\alpha\acute{\mu}$ ;  
 $\zeta\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\epsilon\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$   $\mu\upsilon\iota\tau\epsilon$ ;  $\zeta\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\epsilon\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$   $\text{P}\iota\alpha\theta\alpha\mu$ .

- Allium Sativum. *Cultivated Garlic*.  $\zeta\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\epsilon\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$ .  
*Flower of Garlic*.  $\text{L}\upsilon\eta\alpha\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\acute{\nu}$ .

*Clove of Garlic*.  $\text{I}\omicron\eta\zeta\alpha$   $\zeta\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\tau\epsilon\acute{\omicron}\iota\zeta\epsilon$ .

- Allium Schaenoprasum. *Chives*.  $\text{S}\iota\alpha\beta\alpha\iota$ ;  $\text{S}\iota\omicron\beta\alpha\rho$ ;  $\text{S}\alpha\iota\omicron\beta\acute{\iota}\eta$ ;  
 $\text{P}\epsilon\upsilon\rho\acute{\alpha}\eta$ .

The virtues of garlic were appreciated in former times.

Occasionally medical men of the present day laud it in particular cases. It is undoubtedly of value in tuberculous lesions internally and externally, and deserves attention both in human and veterinary therapeutics.

- Scilla Nutans. *Wild Hyacinth or Blue-bell*.  $\text{O}\upsilon\zeta\alpha$ ;  $\text{O}\upsilon\tau\alpha$   
 $\mu\upsilon\epsilon$ ;  $\text{P}\upsilon\alpha\acute{\epsilon}$   $\mu\upsilon\iota\epsilon$ ; also called  $\text{C}\omicron\mu\tau\epsilon$   $\text{C}\omicron\rho\eta\mu\acute{\alpha}$ . (See  
 Harebell).

The exudation from stem and roots was used as a gum or paste.

- Colchicum Autumnale. *Meadow Saffron*.  $\text{C}\rho\acute{\omicron}\acute{\epsilon}$   $\text{L}\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\eta\alpha$ .

Is found near Carlow and Kilkenny. (The corms are used to make the official tincture of Colchicum).

Crocus Sativa, the true saffron (Cρόc) was used for dyeing linen sheets and garments. It is used by the country people to-day "to bring out the rash" of measles. Sheep's dropping (Faeces) (Cρόc na mBánta) is also a common remedy for measles throughout the country.

### JUNCACEAE.

The rushes listed below are common all over the country. Many and varied were the uses to which these were put. Not many years ago we had rush candles, thatch for houses and corn stacks, matting for human dwellings, litter, hats, toys, and ropes.

Juncus Bufonius (*Toad Rush*); J. Squarosus (*Heath Rush*); J. Gerardi (*Round fruited Rush*); J. Glaucus (*Hard Rush*); J. Effusus (*Loose flowered Rush*); J. Conglomeratus (*Common Rush*); J. Supinus (*Bog Rush*); J. Obtusiflorus (*Blunt flowered Rush*); J. Lamprocarpus (*Shining fruited Rush*); J. Acutiflorus (*Sharp fruited Rush*); Luzula Maxima (*Great Wood Rush*); Luzula Campestris (*Field Wood Rush*); Luzula Erecta (*Many headed Wood Rush*).

The Rush is rendered in Irish by the following:—

Lucáir; úr-luadair; úroð; úogbunne; 7 ml.

The peeled Rush ready for candle making is:—

Seataire; fiaḡ (Δ).

The Rush light:—

Áðann; Áðann léarnac; Turleacán; páirceós.

### TYPHACEAE.

Typha Latifolia. *Great Reedmace*. Cuirseal na mDan Síde; Úoðán Úoð; Earball Cuir.

Sparganium Ramosum. *Branched Bur-Reed*. Ríḡ-ḡeirc (Craobac).

Sparganium Simplex. *Unbranched Bur-Reed*. Ríḡ-ḡeirc (Lom).

Sparganium Affine. *Floating Bur-Reed*. Ríḡ-ḡeirc (Ar rnaḡ).

Sparganium Minimum. *Small Bur-Reed*. Ríḡ-ḡeirc mín.

### AROIDEAE.

Arum Maculatum. *Cuckoo Pint* or *Wake Robin*. Úoð Seap; Cluar Áoim; Seaicín Cútaig; Seatar.

The roots contain starch.

**LEMNACEAE.**

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Lemna Trisulca.             | } | Rór Lácan; Ξιάν Τοννός; Λυρ<br>Ξαν άταιρ Ξαν μήταιρ. |
| <i>Ivy-leaved Duckweed.</i> |   |  |
| Lemna Minor.                |   |  |
| <i>Common Duckweed.</i>     |   |  |

**ALISMACEAE.**

- |                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Alisma Plantago-aquatica.     | } | Diorrplántur; Κορκορός (μόη).<br>" " (βεας). |
| <i>Great Water Plantain.</i>  |   |  |
| Alisma Ranunculoides.         |   |  |
| <i>Lesser Water Plantain.</i> |   |  |

**NAIADACEAE.**

- |                           |   |                 |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Triglochin Palustre.      | } | Dárr an mhuilc. |
| <i>Marsh Arrow Grass.</i> |   |                 |
| Triglochin Maritimum.     |   |                 |
| <i>Sea Arrow Grass.</i>   |   |                 |
- Potamogeton. *Pondweed.* Duitearcna hAbann; Duitleós Féite.  
Zostera Marina *Sea Grasswack.* Mil-féurac.

**CYPERACEAE.**

The commoner members of the order are the sedges and those listed below:—

- |  |   |  |               |
|--|---|--|---------------|
| Carex Pulicaris. <i>Flea Sedge.</i>                          | } | Seirc; Searc; Ciab;<br>Cib.  |               |
| C. Echinata. <i>Lesser Prickly Sedge.</i>                    |   |  |               |
| C. Remota. <i>Distant Spiked Sedge.</i>                      |   |  |               |
| C. Vulgaris. <i>Lesser Tuft Sedge.</i>                       |   |  |               |
| C. Glauca. <i>Smooth Heath Sedge.</i>                        |   |  |               |
| C. Panicea. <i>Pink Sedge.</i>                               |   |  |               |
| C. Binervis. <i>Green Ribbed Sedge.</i>                      |   |  |               |
| C. Praecox. <i>Vernal Sedge.</i>                             |   |  |               |
| C. Flava. <i>Yellow Sedge.</i>                               |   |  |               |
| C. Hirta. <i>Hairy Sedge.</i>                                |   |  |               |
| C. Ampullacea. <i>Bottle Sedge.</i>                          | } | Coltiorc; Coltroc.<br>Λασαιρ Sínte.<br>Λασαιρ mheircneac.<br>Dob-dumne; Cuircair; Féiteaca<br>Fiaðame. |               |
| Cladium Mariscus. <i>Twig Rush.</i>                          |   |  |               |
| Eleocharis Palustris. <i>Creeping Spike Rush.</i>            |   |  |               |
| Scirpus Caespitosus. <i>Scaly Spike Rush.</i>                |   |  |               |
| Scirpus Lacustris. <i>Bull Rush.</i>                         | } | Cuircair; Féiteaca<br>Fiaðame.   |               |
| Eriophorum Angustifolium. <i>Narrow-leaved Cotton Grass.</i> |   |  |               |
|  |   |  | Blác Þorrcar. |

## GRAMINEAE.

The grasses listed below are those members which are used or have some bearing on medicine and economic botany. A complete list is out of the question when one is dealing with such a multitude of species as the grasses afford.

*Phalaris Arundinacea*. *Reed Grass*. Βιορραδ Λακαν; Σιορζαλαδ.  
*Anthoxanthum Odoratum*. *Vernal Grass*. Ψευρ Κυμρα.

The reputed cause of Hay Fever. The grass is frequent in all parts. Hay Fever is rare. It is this grass which gives the odour to new mown hay. It is said to contain Coumarin and benzoic acid.

*Milium effusum*. *Millet Grass*. Μιυλεαδ; Μεανθρηερατη.  
*Phleum Pratense*. *Timothy Grass*. Βοροαν; Ψευρ Καραυτ.  
*Agrostis Vulgaris*. *Fine-leaved Bent*. Βιρηνεαδ; Βι ζινεαδ;  
 Βμινεαδ.

*Arrhenatherum Avenaceum*. *Oat Grass*. Κοιρκε Φιαδαν.

*Phragmites Communis*. *Reed*. Βιορραδ.

*Sesleria Caerulea*. *Moor-grass*. Σιοσα Μονα; Βεϊτεαν.

*Cynosurus Cristatus*. *Dog-tail Grass*. Τραϊτνιν; Κομφευρ.

*Dactylis Glomerata*. *Cock's-foot Grass*. Ψευρ Ζαρθ.

*Briza Media*. *Quaking Grass*. Ψευρ Ζορταδ.

*Poa Annua*. *Meadow Grass* (genus). Ζιαρ Λεανα; Μομφευρ;  
 Σεαυνα Ουβα; Βροβ ι οτομ.

*Glyceria Aquatica*. *Reed Meadow Grass*. Ψευρ Μιυτηρ.

*Festuca Ovina*. *Sheep's Fescue*. Ψευρ Καοραδ.

*Lolium perenne*. *Rye Grass*. Κοιρκε Ρρηεαδαν.

*Lolium Temulentum*. *Darnel*. Βρηαυλιαν; Βαορθεαυλιαν; Οϊτεαν;  
 Ροιυτε.

Known to produce drunkenness. Said to be an adulterant in malt and other liquors.

*Agropyrum Caninum*. *Wheat Grass* (genus). Φιορταν.

*Agropyrum Repens* vel *Triticum Repens*. *Couch, Scutch, Switch Grass*. Βρηυμψευρ.

One of the most difficult weeds to eradicate on account of its long jointed root stock. Each joint is capable of producing a new plant. There is a considerable demand for this root stock in medicine owing to its introduction into the B.P. It is a demulcent and is said to relieve irritative conditions of the bladder. Its use in medicine is not new by any means, but is on the increase. Irish

farmers burn the "weed" or throw it over the cliffs into the sea when working on the coast line. It is "saved" by the people of the poorer districts and used as fodder for the donkeys in the winter. The difficulty in economically preparing the root, in washing, drying, cutting, and cleaning the product for the drug market is, so far, insurmountable.

Nardus Strictu. *Matweed*. Λυαδάτη ζάβατη.  
Hordeum Secalinum. *Barley* (genus). Εόρνα.

### FILICES.

Ireland, owing to the moisture of its climate, is the Fern's Paradise. More varieties and more elegant fronds are found here than in Great Britain.

Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense. *Tunbridge Filmy Fern*.  
Ραιτνεαό Σκανάναό.

Trichomanes Radicans. *Killarney or Bristle Fern*. Ραιτνεαό  
Ρυαμνεαό.

Adiantum Capillus-Veneris. *Maiden Hair*. Ουβόροαό; Τε  
Σκαίπεαό; Ραιττεανν Ριονν.

Sometimes used as an expectorant.

Pteris Aquilina. *Bracken*. Ραιτνεαό.

Blechnum Spicant. *Hard Fern*. Σεαμναόάν Ουβόροαό;  
Ραιτνεαό Ερυαρό.

Asplenium Adiantum Nigrum. *Black Spleen Wort*. Ιυόαρ  
Ταίμαν; Λυρ να Σείγε. Λυρ αν Κορράιν (Ουβ).

Asplenium Trichomanes. *Maiden Hair Spleen Wort*. Λυρ αν  
Κορράιν.

Lastrea Oreopteris. *Sweet Mountain Fern*. Ραιτνεαό Μίλυρ  
αν τΣέιβε; Σρυμ-ραιτνεαό.

Lastrea Aspidium Filix-mas. *Male Fern*. Μαρε Ραιτνεαό  
Important medicinally; is a remedy for intestinal worm,  
particularly the Tape Worm.

Polypodium Vulgare. *Polypody*. Σεαμ να ζΚιοό; Μεαυλας.  
The root was used for (1) Rheumatism as an infusion,  
(2) as a snuff when powdered.

Polypodium Dryopteris. *Oak Fern*. Σεαμ Όαρεαό; Σείμ  
Όαρεαό.

Osmunda Regalis. *Royal Fern*. Ραιτνεαό αν Ρίοζ; Όιορ-  
ραιτνεαό; ζαλλ Ραιτνεαό; Ιννίμιν-Μόμ.

- Opioglossum Vulgatum. *Adder's Tongue*. Λυρ na Τεανζαν ;  
 Λυρ na Πατρὰς.  
 Botrychium Lunaria. *Moon Wort*. Λυρ na Μιορα ; Λυανλυρ ;  
 Θεαττυρ ; Έαρζλυρ.  
 Asplenium Viride. *Green Spleen Wort*. Λυρ an Κορριάμ (ζλαρ).  
 Asplenium Ruta-muraria. *Wall Rue*. Λυθ na Σεαττ ηζαθδ.  
 Athyrium Filix-foemina. *Lady Fern*. Ραιτνεαδ μμυρε ;  
 Ραιτνεαδ μμωρα μμαιτ.  
 Scolopendrium Vulgare. *Hart's Tongue*. Cpeam na μυιце  
 φιαρδ ; Τεανζα φιαρδ.  
 Ceterach Officinarum. *Scale Fern*. Ραιτνεαδ μμείρνεαδ.  
 Aspidium Lonchitis. *Holly Fern*. Ραιτνεαδ Cυιιιιιι.  
 Aspidium Aculiatum. *Prickly Shield Fern*. ιθεαζ ζαρθ.  
 Aspidium Angulare. *Soft Shield Fern*. ιθεαζ μμιν.

### EQUISETACEAE.

- Equisetum maximum. *Great Horse Tail*. Cαρβαλλ Cαραυιι ;  
 φεαθδζ.  
 Equisetum Palustre. *Marsh Horse Tail*. Cυιιιιρτιν.  
 Equisetum Nudum. *Naked Horse Tail*. Cυαιριτιν.  
 Equisetum Hyemale. *Dutch Rush*. θιορθζ.

### LYCOPODIACEAE.

- Lycopodium Selago. *Fir Club Moss*. ζαρθοζαδ (ιορθοιρε) ;  
 Cρυιιιιβινι Cιονναιζ.  
 Lycopodium inundatum. *Marsh Club Moss*. ζαρθοζαδ an  
 Cυρρηαιζ.  
 Lycopodium Clavatum. *Common Club Moss*. ζαρθοζαδ.  
 Lycopodium Alpinum. *Mountain Club Moss*. ζαρθοζαδ an  
 τCτειθε.



They belong to the group of Red Algae, otherwise known as Florideae. They contain a red pigment called Phycoerythrin, combined with the usual green colouring matter Chlorophyll, Floridean starch, oil drops, and Iodine.

Owing to the low content of heat-producing elements, Carrageen provides an excellent summer food in the form of blanc-mange. For this reason also, and for its demulcent properties and iodine content, it is useful in the dietary of the consumptive.

(b) **Corallinaceae.**

*Corallina officinalis.* CúnaC Tpaξa.

(c) **Rhodymeniaceae.**

*Rhodymenia Palmata.* Oυιταρε ζαρθ.

(d) **Laurenciaceae.**

*Laurencia* (various). *Pepper Dulse, Tufted, and Obtuse.*  
Μιτρεάν Tpaξa.

(e) **Rhodomelaceae.**

*Polysiphonia Fastigiata.* CúnaC Tπoρcaιp.

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## GREEN SEAWEEDS.

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### CHLOROSPERMEAE.

#### ULVACEAE.

*Porphyra Lanciniata.* *Laver or Sloke.* Cτεαθαcán ; Cτεαθαc ; Cτεαθαc.

Is stewed for hours until tender, and when dressed with butter, vinegar and pepper, it is served as a vegetable.

*Ulva Latissima.* *Green Laver.* ζαpán.

Is sometimes sold as "Sloucawn." It is usually employed as packing for oysters and lobsters.

*Enteromorpha Intestinalis.* Cιoνάμ υαιcνε, Cνεáιτ υαιcνε.



## PART II.

## HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND.

## SECTION I.

## PRE-CHRISTIAN OR DRUIDIC PERIOD.

## DRUIDS AND DRUIDESSES.—THEIR ROLE AS HEALERS.

NEXT to the kings in Ireland this class ranked in importance. They were priest-physicians and teachers. They had a monopoly of learning. The etymological derivation of the word Druid is obscure. Though some derive it from the Greek, we must look to our own language for its origin and significance. As Druidism is intimately connected with the oak, learning, and magic, the following words Dair and Drus, signifying Oak, Darmhaigh (pronounced Drew), meaning oak plain, and Druidh or Draoi, meaning wise-man, charmer, or magician, seem to provide a very natural derivation.

It is beyond doubt that Druidism is Celtic and existed in its pure state among the tribes of ancient Britain. The evidence as to the existence of Druids in Ireland is contained in the *Tripartite Life*, in which a special garment for wizards is referred to, called the Tonach Druadh or Vestis Magica. There is also St. Patrick's hymn entreating Christ's aid against the spells of women, smiths, and druids. In the "Feast of Bricriu" Cathbhadh appears in the rôle of a Filidh (seer or poet), though elsewhere he is mentioned as the Druid of Concubhar's court. Further evidence of a Druidic regime in Ireland presents itself in a Cork and Kerry version of the Lord's prayer, in which we find "na lig sinn i n-draoidheachd" (allow us not into Druidism or Wizardry), instead of the usual "lead us not into temptation." These, to my mind, present

sufficient evidence that the Druids held sway in Ireland—a fact which some deny—but those people who are acquainted with the folk-lore and customs in connection with Halloween, Hogmanay, and May-day will not need any further evidence.

Amongst the deities worshipped by the Druids was a god of medicine named Rictenus. To him was dedicated the herb Belinimica, said to be a species of henbane.

Pliny says that nothing was so sacred to the Druids as the mistletoe and the oak. Whenever the mistletoe was discovered growing on the oak it was the occasion of great ceremony. The Druids on the sixth day of the moon ascended the oak with a golden knife, gathered the all-healing mistletoe and placed it on the altar under the parent tree. Here, at least, in the early days of Druidism, were offered human sacrifices; the victims included prisoners, criminals, and at times even their (the druids) own children.

As a sanitary precaution somewhat similar to our modern quarantine, but more drastic, was the practice of offering in sacrifice all persons suffering from dangerous and contagious diseases by placing them within a circle of osier twigs, to which fire was applied, thereby reducing the unfortunate mortals to ashes, but at the same time preventing the spread of disease.

While we have evidence that the sufferers from contagious diseases were put to death, we also hear of more humane treatment for the sick and feeble. Even in the remote pagan times Princess Macha, B.C. 300, founded the Broin Bhearg (house of sorrow). This is one of the earliest hospitals on record. It was used by the Red Branch Knights, and served as the royal residence in Ulster until its destruction in A.D. 332. (Seanchus Mor).

In the Genealogies of MacFirbis we get a glimpse of the ancient Irish masters of medicine. O'Curry's translation reads thus :—

“ Thus saith the ancient authority :—the first doctor, the first builder, and the first fisherman that ever were in Erin :—

Capa, foremost healer of the sick in his time, was all powerful.

Eaba, the female physician, who accompanied the lady Ceasair, was the second doctor.

Slangha, the son of Partholan, was the third doctor that came into Ireland ; and

Feargna, the grandson of Cridhinbheal, was the fourth.

“ The doctors of the Firbolgs were Dubhda Dubhlosach, Condan Corinchisnech, and Finghin Fisiocdha Maina, the son of Gressach, and Aongus Anternmach.

“ The doctors of the Tuatha De Danann were Dianchecht, Airmedh, Miach, etc. Dianchecht lived in the reign of King Nuadha Airgeadlamh (of the silver hand) ; his name signifies vehement power. His skill enabled Nuadha, who had lost his arm in the battle fought between his tribe, the Tuatha, and the Firbolgs, to return to his throne, from which he was debarred, having lost his hand. Creidhne, the metal worker, made and fitted the artificial hand when Dianchecht had cured the wound in a bath of herbs. The skill of Dianchecht was again instanced in the battle with the Fomorians, when the wounded Tuatha were brought to the *lus magh*—or plain of herbs—where a bath was prepared, presided over by Dianchecht with his daughter Ochtrinil, and his two sons, Airmedh and Miach. From the herbal bath the warriors returned to the fight refreshed and made whole by this efficient field medical organization.”

In the Book of Leinster we find a reference to Finghin Faithliagh, physician to Conchubhar MacNeasa, king of Ulster A.D. 33.

Finghin was called to Conchubhar, whose skull was penetrated by a missile from the sling of an enemy in battle. The Ultonians besought Finghin to save Conchubhar's life. Finghin proceeded to tell them that if the missile were removed the king would die. But again, if allowed to remain a blemish would be upon their king. The Ultonians replied, “ Is fearr linn ar ri do bheith ainmheach iona a eag ” (We had rather that our king should have a blemish than that he should die).

Conchubhar was restored to life, but was restricted in his movements. “ He was to be cautious, not to get into a passion, to avoid sexual intercourse, to avoid riding on horseback, to abstain from violent exertion, otherwise that by the repelling motion of his own brain he would hurl the ball from his head and die.”

An instance of cosmetic surgery, as performed by Finghin, is found in the suture of the scalp wound with threads of gold to blend with the golden locks of the royal patient. The story of Conchubar's death, as popularly told, bears out the excellent advice and skilled prognosis of his physician. The story runs thus—Conchubar asked his druid what was the cause of the change in the heavens, and the druid replied, "Jesus Christ is being put to death by the Jews." "That is a pity," replied Conchubar, "and if I were present, I would slay all that are putting him to death." And with that he drew forth his sword and went into an oak wood, and set to felling the trees, saying that if he were amongst the Jews he would treat them in the same way; and through the strength of the fury that seized him the ball bounded from his head and a portion of his brain followed it, and with that he died.

The female Druids, or Druidesses, were divided into three classes. The first lived together in sisterhood, having vowed perpetual virginity. They possessed supposed powers of divination, healing and sorcery.

The second were married women, who, however, cohabited only for a short time or occasionally with their husbands. They lived mostly with the Druids.

The third, the lowest in rank and estimation, performed the menial duties in connection with all Druidic rites.

As Druidism is intimately connected with the oak, it is easy to understand that the mistletoe was a favourite remedy. The shrub, they believed, gave fertility to man and beast, and was used by them as a specific against all kinds of poison. The Vervane was another plant in their pharmacology. It was gathered on a moonless night at the commencement of the dog days. From it they made an ointment which was considered efficacious not only in preventing and curing diseases, but also in conciliating friendship. They used the herb Selago, a species of Savin, for diseases of the eye. This plant was used by burning and allowing the smoke to ascend to the eyes.

Just as our modern surgeons are clothed in white when performing operations, so the Druids were robed in white when performing their rites. All other classes were forbidden to wear this colour.

## SECTION II.

## EARLY CHRISTIAN OR MONASTIC PERIOD.

THE spirit of monasticism is the dominant feature characterising the early Christian period in Ireland. It was in the fifth century that St. Patrick introduced the Christian religion. Paganism had disappeared in the seventh century. Under monastic influence there grew up a number of schools. Students, attracted by the fame of the Irish schools attached to these monastic institutions, came from all parts.

Medicine was taught and practised by the monks in these schools. One has only to glance through the numerous manuscripts now to be found in the great libraries of Britain and the Continent to see that the monks were diligent students of medicine.

From the schools of the West, such as Clonmacnois, Lismore, Glendalough, the torch of civilization was brought forth to the barbarous populations in Britain and on the Continent. This might well be called the sacerdotal stage of medicine in Europe, for a somewhat similar condition existed in all the countries now being civilized by the monks of the West. The only country, however, which can bear as high repute as Ireland is southern Italy, the old Magna Graecia. The famous medical school of Salerno flourished from the eighth to the thirteenth century. Its work, including that of its women professors, is well known.

It is very difficult to get authentic and specific information concerning the practice and methods of these sacerdotal practitioners, but it is beyond doubt that the monks exercised the calling of physicians and surgeons.

Nobody denies that the nursing of the sick, especially during epidemics, was well organised by the early Christian communities. We have ample evidence to prove that hospitals and leper houses were established in Ireland at a very early period in connection with the monastic institutions.

On the continent there were established in the sixth century by the Irish monks institutions known as *hospitalia scothorum*. We read later an order by the Council of Meaux, A.D. 845, for the restoration of these institutions, which had fallen into decay. Perhaps these *hospitalia scothorum* were only a refuge

for the Irish in those alien countries. The terms *hospitium*, *domus hospitalis*, and *Xenodochium* applied in the early periods to such refuges or hospices for the numerous pilgrims of that time. The first hospitals, in the modern sense of the word, existed in the monasteries under the name of *infirmatoria*. Within the *clausura* was an infirmary for members of the community, and outside an infirmary for the ordinary individual. Just as medical science found a refuge in the monasteries, so in their *infirmatoria* were housed the sick and infirm.

Another source of information concerning the early Irish *Liagh*, or leech, is the *Seanchus Mor*, or great code of Brehon Laws. These laws operated in early pagan times, but were modified in the fifth century when Christianity was introduced. They contain regulations to protect the people from unlawful practitioners and malpraxes. We read of :—

Τοιρεσσοιρ, ρεαρο—probe.

ρυιιυξασο—bloodletting.

ρορυρ τυαιτε—territory house or hospital.

The hospital was built over a running stream, and was protected from fools, dogs, and women scolds.

From the quotation below it will be seen that medical knowledge was possessed by women at an early period, and we must assume that such knowledge was gained in the monastic schools.

“ In the time of Alfred, King of the West Saxons, Anno 872, as Fabian and Cooper have noted, there was a grievous malady reigning among the people called the evil ficus, which also took the king, so that, say mine authors, an Irish maid came out of Ireland called Modwen, whose monastery in time of rebellion was destroyed, and cured the king.”—*Hanmer's Chronicles*.

Some would have us believe that the part played by the monks in the progress of medicine was insignificant. This much is true, however, that as teaching centres the monasteries were active ; they provided homes for students and afforded a safe repository for manuscripts. Bearing in mind the numerous edicts issued from time to time forbidding the practice of medicine or surgery by ecclesiastics, we should

wonder if our own religious were not seduced from the cloister in common with their continental brethren to the unfortunates languishing under disease outside, and were thus involved in one of the many admonitions and rulings of their superiors on this matter.

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VARIOUS DECREES FORBIDDING PRIESTS AND MONKS TO  
PRACTISE MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

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Council of Rheims, 1131, forbade law and medicine.

Innocent III., Fourth Synod of Lateran, 1215, forbade surgery.

Alexander III., Council of Tours, 1163, forbade study of surgery after ordination.

Boniface VI., end of 13th century	}	Medicine and surgery were forbidden under pain of excommunication.
Clement V., at Avignon, early in 14th century		

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It is interesting to note that it was Pope Alexander III. who revived the clerical tonsure, and from this circumstance, coupled with the fact that he had forbidden religious to leave the cloister in pursuit of the practice of medicine or surgery, history first learns of the barber craft. In cases of external diseases, blood-letting and other manual operations it was the custom of the priests to send their own servants, who were also their barbers, to perform the operation. Concerning the barber craft in Ireland, we shall learn more when treating of the guilds.

The Bishops in Ireland, at the time of Charles II. and James I. possessed the power to grant licence to practice physic, surgery, and midwifery. They do not seem to have used this power. A quarto manuscript belonging to the Diocese of Down and Connor, entitled a "Book of Presedents for the Ecclesiastical Court," contains the form "Licentia Concessa A.B. ad practicand Artem Chirurgicam."

## SECTION III.

THE HEREDITARY PHYSICIANS OF THE SEPTS OR CLANS.—  
 RISE OF A MEDICAL PROFESSION IN EUROPE,  
 INTRODUCTION OF CONTINENTAL METHODS.

THE Irish chieftains always possessed, even during the early Christian or monastic period, their own hereditary physicians, for whose maintenance they allotted large tracts of land. The territory so allotted was regarded as sacred, both in times of peace and war. We are not told, but surmise, that portion of the land was devoted to the cultivation of medicinal herbs.

The medical works of the period under review are for the most part translations from the Latin of Avicenna—the aphorisms of Hippocrates, Galen, Razes and other fathers of the healing art. Some of the names of these hereditary physicians have been transmitted through their works.

The O'Cassidys were physicians to the Maguires of Fer-managh for fully two centuries 1320-1504. A tract entitled "Nature and Cure of the different diseases incident to the human frame" was written by Thomas O'Cassidy, one of the hereditary practitioners. Another work in the fifteenth century was written by O'Lee in Latin and Irish. The O'Lees were physicians to the O'Flahertys of West Connaught. Murrough O'Lee was looked upon as a magician, and was supposed to have received all his knowledge from the genii of the enchanted island of Hy-Brassil.

The O'Hickeys were physicians to the O'Briens of Thomond and other heads of septs. They possessed a copy of "The Lily of Medicine." The "Lily of Medicine" was the work of Bernardus De Gordon, professor of the Montpellier School, who died in the year 1305.

Nicholas O'Hickey, a member of the same family, translated "The Rosa Anglica," a manual of medicine celebrated in its time. This was written by Gaddesden, who flourished in 1305, and O'Hickey's translation into Irish was made in 1400.

The O'Callaghans of Cork were hereditary physicians to the McCarthys of Carbery; the O'Nellans and O'Quinns were also noted practitioners.



The O'Mearas, physicians to the Butlers of Ormond, were the first to publish medical works in Latin. Dermot O'Meara has left us a book entitled *Pathologica Hereditaria Generalis*, which was printed in Dublin in 1619. A tract entitled "Hippocraticam Februm Etiologium et Prognosim" has also been attributed to him. His son Edmond was the author of "Examen diatribae, Thome Wilisii," London, 1665, a work on fever written against the theories of Willis.

The "Book of the O'Sheils," now in the Royal Irish Academy, contains the aphorisms of Hippocrates, commentaries on Galen, Avicenna and Vesalius, besides a dissertation on the therapeutics of our native flora. The date of the manuscript is unknown, but so great was its repute that it was transcribed in 1657.

A reference to Murtough O'Sheil is found in the *Annals of the Four Masters*. He was mortally wounded in the petty revolution in the principality of the MacLoughlins. His death took place in 1548; he is styled in the *Annals* as the best physician of his age. The O'Sheils were physicians to the Macmahons of Oriel, and held the estate of Ballysheil, on the banks of Brosna, in King's County.

We may rest assured that the wars with Elizabeth entailed plenty of surgical work, but on the accession of James I. these hereditary practitioners were stripped of their holdings and followed their liege lords to foreign lands.

Owen O'Sheil was the first of the Irish physicians who set out for the Continent to acquire a more extensive knowledge than could be obtained at home. With this object he went to Paris in 1604. He studied there, but did not feel justified in taking out his diploma because, as he observed, the Parisian faculty was "somewhat lax at and favourable in the conferring of graduation." He therefore proceeded to Louvain to study under Vanderhayden, Vangaret and Vieringhen. Here he took out his diploma after three years' study. Thence he came to Padua, then "the nursery of Gallian Phisick, prime angular stone of anatomy, the only phoenix in Europe of medical science in speculative as well as theorick." He remained there a year, and having passed his examination he received the degree of doctor "to the high repute of all present." O'Sheil then spent half a year in Rome, whence he returned to Flanders, where he was appointed chirurgion

doctor to the army of Albert and Isabella, joint sovereigns of the Low Countries. There he became chief of the medical faculty in the Royal Hospital of Malines, where he worked until 1620. In that year he returned to Ireland and settled in Dublin. After some years he earned the sobriquet of the "Eagle of Doctors." Later at the siege of Duncannon he was surgeon in chief of the Leinster Forces under Preston. Here he had ample field for his resources of leech craft.

In the autumn of 1646, having lost confidence in the treacherous Preston, he thenceforth devoted his skill to the service of the troops commanded by Owen Roe. Before quitting the camp of his former chief O'Sheil sent him the following letter, which proves that he did not cease to take an interest in Preston's bodily health :—

"MY RIGHT HONORABLE LORD,

"Having known the condition of your body this long while, and calling to memory also how some years since I have given directions in the Low Countries whereby your honour should abstain from all sorts of wine, only 'Vin de pays' and 'Rhenish wine,' excess in which direction was altogether excluded then ; and now also, my Lord, according to my obligations I do once again forbid the same.

"Assuring your honour that no other end can be expected than to shorten your own days, whereby you will be an executioner of yourself if you follow the contrary. This much to discharge myself and my duty towards you I thought fit to certify, and so do rest and will ever remain

"Your true servant,

"OWEN O'SHEIL."

O'Sheil died under the O'Neill banner, and was found amongst the slain between Letterkenny and Schearsaullis, leaving many men and women bemoaning his loss.

Richard Arthur, M.D., was a distinguished contemporary and rival of O'Sheil ; his "fee book" is published in *Kilkenny Archaeological Journal*.

John Baptist van Helmont, born 1577, died 1644, writes in his *Confessio Authoris* :—"For I remember that the Chieftains of Ireland used each to give a piece of land to a healer who

lived with them ; not one who came back trained from the universities but one who could really make sick people well. Each such healer has a book crammed with specific remedies bequeathed to him by his forefathers. Accordingly he who inherits the book inherits also the piece of land. The book describes the symptoms and ailments and the country remedies used for each, and the people of Ireland are cured more successfully when ill, and have generally far better health than the people of Italy.”

## SECTION IV.

THE RISE OF A MEDICAL PROFESSION.—INTRODUCTION OF  
CONTINENTAL METHODS.

ABOUT 1628 Valentine Greatrakes, of Affane, Co. Waterford, by passing his hand over the part affected in various diseases, is said to have restored health. He was so famous that he was eventually ordered to England by Charles II. In the memoirs of the Earl of Orrery by Love we learn that "the Royal Society and other modern philosophers," not able to dispute the result which he obtained, found words to define it, and called those strange effects "a sanative contagion in his body which had an antipathy to some particular disease and not to others." Some instances of the cures performed by Greatrakes are given in the "Philosophical Transactions" by a Mr. Thoresby.

Greatrakes was one of the first to develop this method of healing, which, we believe, emanated from the doctrine propounded by Paracelsus in *De Peste*; this was the beginning of modern hypnotism and animal magnetism. A similar method, in conjunction with exorcism, was used by an Irish priest named Jas. Feenachty about the period of the restoration. Both Greatrakes and Feenachty eventually lost their fame. Greatrakes died in Dublin in obscurity.

The "Philosophical Society of Dublin" was founded in 1683 by Wm. Molyneux, who was a lawyer with a leaning towards science. This society was the only means by which Irish medical men could announce anything new or make known their opinions, previous to the foundation of the Medical School of Trinity College in 1710. One of the subjects discussed by Molyneux was the microscopic examination of the blood. His paper read before the Society would suggest that even at this early date medical jurisprudence was studied on a scientific basis in this country. A younger brother, Thomas Molyneux, was a physician, botanist, and classical scholar. He has written papers on "Stone in the Bladder," "Epidemic Influenza" and the "Vesiculæ Seminales."

It is interesting to note that Molyneux records for the first time *Saxifraga Umbrosa* as a Kerry plant in 1697, and, as he states, "vulgarly called by the gardeners London Pride," it must have been already familiar in cultivation.

Allen Mullen, whose work on the comparative anatomy of the eye and his attempt to calculate the amount of blood in the human body have received the approbation of Sprengel and Von Haller, was one of the most original members of the Dublin Society. He died in Barbadoes, it is said, from a surfeit of the wine of that country.

Many Irishmen never returned to their native land but gained fame in the country of their adoption. Amongst these may be mentioned Doctor Thady Dunn, who in 1538, shortly after the publication of Kenny's *Catechism* (the first book printed in Ireland) published his *Epistolae Medicinales*. He was domiciled at Locarno, Switzerland. In his *De Morbis Mulieribus* he advocates the warm bath in tedious labour.

Neil O'Clacan, a native of Donegal was appointed physician to the King of France and was privy councillor of that kingdom; he was successively professor of physic at the universities of Toulouse and Bologne. His principal writings are *Tractus De Peste*, 1629, and *Cursus Medicus*, 1655. Bernard O'Connor, a Kerryman, studied at Mont Pelier; he was later a physician to John Sobieski, King of Poland. His works are—*De Humani Hypogastri Sarcomatei*, *Dissertationes Medicophysicae* and the *Evangelium Medici*, in which he advances the opinion that fecundation is possible without the actual contact of the sexes. At the age of thirty-two O'Connor died in London, 1698.

The subject matter of a work, *Ireland's Natural History*, by Arnold Boate, a Dutchman, practising in Dublin in 1649, entitles it to mention here.

## SECTION V.

## MIEVEAL GUILDS AND CHARTERED BODIES.

THE first medieval corporation of which we have any record was the Guild of the Art of Barbers or Guild of St. Mary Magdalene of the City of Dublin.

This guild was established by a charter of Henry VI. in 1446 for the promotion and exercise of the art of Chirurgery. Men and women were members until the union of the Barbers with the Chirurgeons—who had sprung up in the meantime—in 1576 by charter of Elizabeth. In 1687 the guild was further enlarged by the entry of the Apothecaries and Periwigmakers.

This latter guild was constituted the Corporation of the Apothecaries Hall by Act of Parliament in 1792, and still exists as such.

The members of the guilds appear to have kept strictly to their own particular branch from the beginning of the 18th century. The operation of bleeding and the extraction of the teeth were practised by the barbers. Dentistry as a profession had not yet arrived. All other surgical operations were performed by the Chirurgeons.

The origin of the barber craft was seen when treating of the clerical or monastic physicians. These latter, owing to various decrees forbidding the priests to practice, were compelled to hand over this part of their work to their barbers, who were their servants. These barbers performed, previous to the papal decrees, all indelicate operations, especially for women folk, and applied remedies for external diseases as well as their tonsorial work.

The collection of natural discharges for examination by their masters within the cloister was also part of the work performed by the barber.

When the College of Physicians was founded in 1692, the members of the College came into conflict with Barbers, Chirurgeons and Apothecaries. An attempt was made by the college to prevent them from administering internal medicine, but without avail.

It would seem that surgeons other than members of the guild of Barber Chirurgeons existed and practised during the period when these companies flourished ; these included Army Surgeons, University Graduates, and men who had served an apprenticeship of five to seven years with surgeons of repute.

There is a pamphlet in the Thorpe collection written during the reign of Queen Anne, which sets out " that there is not the least affinity between Surgery, Peruke-making, and the Feat or Craft of Barbery," " the barbarous and inhumane practices of impudent and ignorant Pretenders," and that " the Guild was a refuge for Empericks, Quacks, Women and other idle persons."

The secession of the Apothecaries, together with the movement on foot at the time to regulate the practice of surgery, weakened the power of the guild. In the provincial towns, *e.g.*, Cork and Limerick, in each of which a company of Barber-Surgeons flourished, the same process of disintegration went on.

## SECTION VI.

## THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

THE earliest private school of which we have any record was Brennan's, on Arran Quay. An advertisement of this school appeared in the *Dublin Weekly Journal*, 1728, as follows :

“ A course of Anatomy in all branches (viz.) Osteology, Myology, Neurology, Adenology, and Enterology will be given by James Brennan, M.D., etc. The charge of this course is two Pistoles.”

This school was in existence before the foundation of the school in connection with the College of Surgeons, and in all likelihood many others existed even before the foundation of the School of Physic in 1710, but of these there are no records available.

The principal private schools of the nineteenth century in Dublin were Crampton's, Jervis Street Hospital School, Kirby's, The Theatre of Anatomy, the Park Street, Carmichael, Hargreaves, Peter's Street, Ledwich, Stephen's Hospital Medical School, and the School of Medicine of the Apothecaries Hall, which latter became the Cecilia Street School of Medicine of the Catholic University.

In 1812 Woodroffe's School of Anatomy existed in Cork, where Hogan, the sculptor, studied. Caesar's "recognized School of Medicine" was established in Cork in 1828, and existed until the foundation of the Queen's College. Warren's Place School of Anatomy, Medicine and Surgery in the same city flourished 1835 to 1844.



## SECTION VII.

## OBSTETRICS IN IRELAND.

SINCE women formally rejected the assistance of male practitioners in their labour, progress in the art of midwifery was difficult. We have progressed wonderfully since the days of Agnodice of Athens. Yet this Grecian lady can still be held up as a model to our present day midwife despite the fact that the modern Trotula is much in evidence.

The hereditary physicians of the clans are not known to have specially practised this branch of the profession. But it is not at all unlikely that a better system prevailed than that obtaining in the years that followed.

As late as 1753 the College of Physicians refused to license anybody in physic who was concerned in the practise of midwifery. We can therefore readily imagine what a barrier to progress existed when the art remained absolutely in the hands of the uneducated.

Although in the charter granted to the College of Physicians in 1692 was given "full power and authority to examine all midwives," no use was made of the privilege.

Previous to 1740 four persons were examined by the College of Physicians for License in Midwifery; Mrs. Cormack, 1696-7, was the first woman thus licensed.

We have undoubted evidence that the hereditary physicians were acquainted with the Hippocratic writings, which include reference to version, position and dismemberment of foetus and table for facilitating delivery. All the achievements of ancient times seem to have been forgotten by the physicians and surgeons of the later centuries.

To Fielding Ould credit must be given for calling attention to the fact that no means existed in Ireland by which medical men could obtain instruction in midwifery. In 1740 he stated in a preface to his *Manual of Midwifery* that he was indebted to the Paris school for his practical knowledge. His description of the mechanism of labour, although incomplete, is the first attempt to put this subject on a scientific footing. He advocated turning and extraction by the feet in cases of slight contraction of the pelvis. He was the inventor of a contrivance

called the "terebra occulta," long since obsolete, but he will be remembered chiefly for the dictum "meddlesome midwifery is bad."

Bartholomew Mosse saw the need for a lying-in hospital that would serve the double purpose of charity and instruction. He set about the task, and with unflagging energy, aided by his intense gambling spirit, brought into being the world-renowned Rotunda Hospital. The embryonic stage began in 1745 when Mosse took over a house in George's Lane, now South Great George's Street, which he converted into a lying-in hospital of twelve beds at his own expense.

The good work done at the hospital in George's Lane led, through many vicissitudes, to the Rotunda Hospital proper. With the aid of parliamentary grants and the proceeds of lotteries and public amusements, all organised by Mosse himself, the foundation stone of the Rotunda building was laid in 1751 and the charter of incorporation from George II. was granted in 1756.

The Coombe Lying-in Hospital was also started as a private effort. It was part of Kirby's famous school and was carried on as such in 1822, providing clinical training for the students. It was taken over as a public charity in 1829 for the people of the Liberties.

The problems of the early days were puerperal fever and Trismus Nasantium. The groping in the dark is dull reading, but the zeal exhibited by these pioneers in advancing their theories, if not admirable, is amusing.

Joseph Clarke is noted for his researches in Trismus Nasantium and the application of statistics to the study of midwifery. He improved the conditions of the hospital by his insistence on thorough ventilation.

Doctor Douglas' essay on spontaneous evolution is often quoted.

The College of Physicians had progressed sufficiently in 1827 to appoint a professor of Midwifery at the School of Physic.

William F. Montgomery, who filled the chair, is noted for his treatise on the signs and symptoms of pregnancy.

In 1838 Evory Kennedy, one of the masters of the Rotunda Hospital, founded the Dublin Obstetric Society.

As elsewhere, Semmelweiss' discovery of the cause of puerperal fever was taken up slowly. It was an uphill fight,

for the old school was well entrenched. It is impossible to assign credit to anyone in particular, but Macan's rule of 1882 proved the death-knell of the terrible epidemic and the endless discussions to which these epidemics led.

This rule ran somewhat as follows:—All persons who examine a patient in this hospital (Rotunda) must previous to the examination sign the patient's bed chart, wash thoroughly the hands with a nail brush, and then immerse the hands in carbolic solution. This rule not only guarded against infection, but also enabled it to be traced.

Macan also interviewed all students before entering the hospital, and took special care that no student who was working at dissections obtained admission to the hospital.

## SECTION VIII.

## "TRINITY," "THE COLLEGES," AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

ALTHOUGH the University of Dublin and Trinity College were established by Charter of Elizabeth in 1591, and the foundation stone of the College building was laid in the same year by Thomas Smith, Apothecary, we do not see any evidence of the study of medicine within its walls for many years after the foundation.

For the initiation of a medical faculty the College is indebted to John Stearne, born at Ardracran, Co. Meath, in 1624. He spent part of his student days at Trinity College, and left the country at the time of the Rebellion (1641). He next went to Sidney College, Cambridge, and thence to Wadham College, Oxford. On his return to Dublin he proceeded to carry out his plan to establish a Fraternity of Physicians.

In 1662 he was elected Professor of Medicine in the University of Dublin, when he had succeeded in establishing Trinity Hall for "the advancement of the study of Physick in Ireland." Shortly afterwards Stearne established the College of Physicians, in 1668, by obtaining a Charter and the settlement of Trinity Hall and the lands belonging thereto on the newly incorporated College.

This was the beginning of the College of Physicians, which has since maintained its connection with the University of Dublin.

Trinity Hall was restored to the University in 1880, and the articles drawn up include an agreement that the President of the College of Physicians shall be a Protestant of the Church of Ireland. The attempts of King James in 1686 to appoint Arthur Green, "one of the king's converts," who was a graduate of Physics of the University, to the Lectureship in Irish, and to appoint Bernard Doyle of Drogheda as Fellow, met with no success. Dr. Crosby, although elected to the Presidency of the College about this time, the appointment would not be sanctioned by Trinity because he was a Roman Catholic.

The College of Physicians in 1692 obtained a new Charter. It was now constituted as the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, with Sir Patrick Dunn as President.

The foundation of the Medical School of Trinity College really dates from 1710, in which year a laboratory, anatomical theatre, and physic garden were provided.

The Royal College of Surgeons was founded by Charter granted in 1784 to the Dublin Society of Surgeons formed in 1780 by men who were dissatisfied with their brethren the Barbers and Periwig makers of the Barber Surgeons guild. Various supplemental Charters have since been granted.

A curious controversy between the Colleges occurred in 1837, when the physicians endeavoured to secure some of the appointments which were in the hands of the surgeons. The County Infirmaries, for which the appointments were sought by the Physicians, were attended solely by the Surgeons until the inequality was removed by the Medical Act of 1876.

In 1850 the School of Physic in Trinity required a concession from the College of Surgeons, namely that all candidates for the M.B. degree of the University should spend one *annus medicus* in Trinity; in return they asked the College to recognise the lecturers in the School of Physic.

Their refusal of this request led to the granting of a Diploma in Surgery by the University of Dublin in 1857.

In 1862 the Irish Poor Law Board issued an Order requiring candidates for the Poor Law Dispensaries to possess diplomas in Medicine and Surgery. The College of Surgeons immediately began to issue diplomas in Medicine as a result, but these were not recognised, and soon fell into disuse.

The University of Dublin first opened its doors to Catholics in 1793, but would give them no share in its emoluments, and did not abolish religious tests until 1873. The Queen's Colleges, three in number, one at Galway, Cork and Belfast, were the constituent Colleges of the Queen's University of 1849. These Colleges were meant to provide the higher education demanded by Catholics, and each had a Medical faculty.

They did not meet with the approval of the Catholic Bishops, as they made no provision for religious teaching. In 1850, at the Synod of Thurles, it was resolved, on the advice

of Rome, to set up a Catholic University in Dublin. Cardinal Newman was brought over and made Rector. Work was started in 1854, a Charter was sought but not granted. Students were few; the famine, with its accompanying diseases, had taken off many of our youth. Newman, like all Englishmen, forgot that he was dealing with men of a different nationality, although of the same religion. Irishmen took as their model Louvain. Newman would insist on his Oxford and Cambridge ideas. The only school of the Catholic University which struggled on was the Medical school. The Cecilia Street School of the Catholic School of Medicine (which had previously been the school of the Apothecaries' Hall) was bought over for the Catholic University in 1854, and continues to exist to the present day, being now the dissecting room of the faculty of Medicine in the National University. When the first Medical Act was passed in 1858 the qualifications obtainable and registrable in Ireland were the Licence and Fellowship of both Colleges (Physicians and Surgeons), the Licence of the Apothecaries' Hall, the Licence in Medicine and M.S. of the University of Dublin, the M.D. and M.S. of the Queen's University.

In 1876 the B.Ch. became registrable, and the Register was open to women.

In 1879 Queen's University was abolished. The Royal University took its place, and was empowered to give degrees to all who passed its examination. In 1908 Mr. Birrell's Irish Universities Act set up two new Universities, the Queen's University at Belfast, with its own College; the National University at Dublin, with its constituent Colleges at Cork, Galway and Dublin.

## CLAR.

a.

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b.

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