

name of Maragogipe coffee, was introduced to the notice of planters by Mr. Thos. Christy, of 25 Lime Street, who obtained it from Brazil just ten years ago. The Kew plant, which is growing in the great palm-house, is some 10 or 15 feet high, and has this year produced a good crop of fruit. It is a vigorous grower, producing leaves fully twice the size of those of Arabian coffee, and the fruits or cherries are quite an inch long, or double the size of those of the old Arabian sort. They are soft when ripe, red in colour, with a silky smooth surface and a very small proportion of pulp. From the fact of the plant being a very vigorous grower, attaining a height of 8 or 10 feet in three or four years, and producing large crops of fruit at that age, it has been estimated that the weight of coffee per acre must be very much more than from the ordinary coffee-tree. Although Maragogipe coffee has been grown experimentally in Ceylon, Java, Jamaica, and Trinidad, no reports seem to have reached Kew as to the results. It would appear, however, to have taken some hold in Ceylon for a large quantity of seed was shipped direct to Ceylon* from Brazil in 1884. It has also been cultivated since 1887 in the botanic gardens, Trinidad, while in Jamaica about a dozen plants were raised from seeds received in 1883, and these were distributed for trial amongst the leading planters in the Blue Mountain district during 1884 and 1885. In the gardens of the Queensland Acclimatization Society a plant originally introduced from Kew bore heavy crops of seeds last year, from which a large stock of plants were to be raised for distribution this year, so that we may expect, before long, to hear of a general demand among coffee planters for this new kind of coffee, and ultimately to see it in our grocers' shops as a competitor with the far-famed Mocha.—*Chemist and Druggist.*

DRUG REPORT.

(From *Chemist and Druggist.*)

London, June 14th.

CINCHONA.—Tuesday's bark-auctions were of moderate extent, the six catalogues comprising the whole of the bark offered. The circumstance that the entire contribution of Ceylon to the cinchona-auctions consisted of 7 packages, or about one-third of 1 per cent of the total offered, is an indication of the position of insignificance to which island has been reduced as a factor in the cinchona-market. The bark at auction represented an equivalent of about 12,000 lb. of sulphate of quinine. The total quantity of bark included in the auctions was as follows:—

	Pkgs.	7 of which	Pkgs.	7 were sold
Ceylon cinchona	...	1978	do	1928
East Indian cinchona	...	69	do	46
Java cinchona	...	327	do	173
Cuprea bark	...			

The tone throughout the auctions was firm, and good barks were well competed for, the unit being from 1/4d to 1d per lb. The following prices were paid for sound bark:—

CEYLON CINCHONA.—Fair-original Hybrid shavings 3d; small bright renewed Succirubra shavings 3 1/2d per lb.

EAST INDIAN CINCHONA.—The East Indian bark included a considerable quantity of *Officinalis* quill bark from Southern India (Nilgiri Hills.) There was also a fair proportion of grey and yellow chips among the Indian cinchona.

JAVA CINCHONA.—Ledger chips 1/4d; dull dusty root 3 1/2d good rich root 5 1/2d per lb.

CUPREA BARK.—Of 327 bales cuprea, imported in 1882-84, 172 sold at prices ranging from 1/4d to 1 1/2d per lb.

HEALTHY COFFEE SEED AND WHERE TO GET IT.—

We hear that Mr. T. H. Stephens, son of Mr. John Stephens, of Campola, is importing Burmah coffee seed, which he tells us is supposed to be the true Mocha, is very prolific, and is entirely free from leaf disease and other diseases. Hybrids of the Arabian and Liberian variety have been raised, we believe, and ought also to be very hardy and suitable for experiment in Ceylon.

* We know of no special clearing or field of this coffee—who has got any of it in Ceylon?—Ed. T. A.

TEA AND SCANDAL.

CAMOMILE TEA (After E. A. Poe's 'Annabel Lee.')

1
It was many and many a year ago,
In a cot by the Irish sea,
A decoction I knew of, which you may know,
By the name of Camomile Tea;
A stuff which was brewed with no other end
Than to plague and be drunk by me.

2
I was a child—a mere bit of a child—
When I lived in that cot by the sea,
But I hated with hate which was more than hate,
That horrible Camomile Tea!
A hate which was visible, I have no doubt,
To the eyes of my Aunt Magee.

3
And this is the reason, I happen to know
Why she always was down on me,
Whenever I had the least malady filling
A tumbler with Camomile Tea
And drenching me three times a day with the same—
The horriest bore that could be—
And shutting me up in my bedroom for hours
With a tract and more Camomile Tea!

4
Even now, strange, it seems I have hideous dreams,
Of that horrible Camomile Tea!
Of its taste when I think, I still shudder and shrink
At the nauseous Camomile Tea!
And I muse in amazement at that old woman's craze;
Oh! the loathing, the loathing I felt in those days
When I lived in that cot by the sea,
In that cot with my Aunt Magee!

[Punch's Almanac, 1863.]

"There is no nation and there are very few individuals who do not make daily use of some substance to which the term Stimulant or Narcotic may be applied in strictest accordance with what we know of the action of drugs. Von Bibra (*Narkotischen Genussmittel und der Mensch*) puts the matter roughly, but strikingly:—

Coffee Leaves are taken in the form of infusion by 2,000,000 of the world's inhabitants.

Paraguay Tea is taken by 10,000,000.

Coca by as many.

Chicory either pure or mixed with coffee by 40,000,000.

Coca either as Chocolate or in some other form by 50,000,000.

Haschisch is eaten and smoked by 300,000,000.

Opium by 400,000,000.

Chinese Tea is drunk by 500,000,000.

Finally all the known nations of the world are addicted to the use of tobacco (chiefly in the form of smoke, otherwise by snuffing and chewing).

Professor Johnstone (*Chemistry of Copiamon Life*) completes the picture thus drawn by an ingenious map in which it is sufficiently shown that no considerable tract of the earth's surface is without some special indigenous narcotic plant, of which the natives freely avail themselves, not merely for medicinal purposes but for every day use." [*Stimulants and Narcotics*. Francis E. Anstie, M.D. 1864 p. 14.]

A PROPHECY.

When Mother Goose a Fly is
Beast Pig an Ounce of Tea.
When daub'd with Paint the Sky is
Then London, was to thee!

[The Argus, 6th Oct. 1832.]

"In the article of Tea a great saving may be made if the process of making it was altered. Make a tincture of tea by pouring boiling water on it in a metal pot. Let it stand twenty minutes and put no more water in it than is necessary for the company to fill their cups a third or a half-full without the necessity of adding more water. Then when tea is to be served, fill each cup a third or half full according to the strength of the tincture, and fill the cups from an urn or kettle. By this mode the tea will always be hot and equally strong to the end, and one tea-spoonful will be found sufficient for three cups for each person; whereas according to the present mode of making it, three times the quantity is often used. There are fourteen tea-spoonfuls in