

the contractors will have to be controlled in some way or other.

Among the species of plants obtainable in Ceylon which are likely to yield essences, the following may be mentioned:—Sweet flag, *Acorus Calamus* Sing. Wadakaha, a zingiberaceous plant growing in moist situations.

Kæmpferia galanga L., Sing. Hingura piyali, and probably other species of *Kæmpferia* such as *K. Pandurata*, S. Ambakaha and *K. Rotunda*, Sing. Yavakenda.

Curcuma Zerumbet, S. Harankaha and *C. Aromatica*, S. Dadakaha. All of the natural-order Scitamineæ, and yielding aromatic rhizomes. The flowers and rhizomes of *Alpinia galanga*, Kaluwala. The seeds of *Klattia cardamomum*, S. Easal.

Of the grasses, the roots of the *Andropogon muricatus*, Kus Kus or Sin. Sevendara, and the leaves of many other species of the same genus, such as *A. nardus*, Sin. Pengiri; *A. schænathus* (geranium grass) and *A. Citratus* yield essential oils. Of the Labiatae order the leaves of *Ocimum canum*, S. Hintala; *O. sanctum*, S. Maduratala; *O. basilicum*; *O. grattisimum* and *O. adscendens*, *Plectranthus Zeylanicus*, S. Iriwariya; *Coleus aromaticus*, S. Kapparawallia; *Pogostemon hyneanus*, S. Koilankola; *Mentha sativa* and *M. Viridis* are prolific sources of essence. Among others we have the seeds of Aniseed, *Pimpinella anisum*; Cummin seed, *Cuminum cyminum*; Fennel seed, *Feniculum vulgare*; *Nigella sativa*, S. Kaludura and Coriander, *Coriander Sativum* and a host of others. Cloves, Nutmegs and Sandal-wood, the flowers of orange and myrtle, are common and well known. The methods of extraction of essence are almost simple in the extreme. There are three processes in vogue just now, viz., expression, distillation, and maceration.

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(To be continued.)

GENERAL ITEMS.

Dr. Watt in his Dictionary of Economic Products mentions that he has repeatedly observed milkmen in Eastern Bengal carrying milk to market with a few leaves of *Cocculus Villosus* and the spine-like leaf of the date-palm placed in the vessel, and that on enquiring he was told that these prevented the milk from going bad through heat and shaking. Dr. Watt further states that he suspects that the real object was to thicken the water-adulterated milk. It is now stated in one of the Agricultural Ledger series that the leaves of *Cocculus* as those of *Petalium Murex* are well known to have the power of "thickening water" as it is called, but the action on milk, if the above observation be confirmed, seems well worthy the attention of the chemist and of the dairy farmers. *Petalium* is reported to be more especially used to thicken butter milk. [*C. Macrocarpus* is the species of *Cocculus* indigenous to Ceylon but *Petalium Murex* (the Sinhalese et-nerenchi) is a common weed, and it would be well for all concerned to see that their milk is not artificially thickened by the wily milkman by means of these two plants.]

The Jute plant would appear to be particularly well suited to Queensland. A writer to the *Australian Agriculturist* says that at the end of six months Jute, as grown by him, reached 13 and 14 feet in height. It is doubtful whether even in the well-known Jute fields of Northern India this height is often attained, indeed the height of the Jute plant in these parts is not often more than 10 feet. Again, in Queensland the period of immersion is given as from 10 to 24 days, while in Bengal the period is usually about half, or less than half, of this.

