

defendant's shop which had been analysed, and it was found that the previous sample contained exactly the same amount. The defendant's flour had also been analysed, and it was found not to contain alum.

In reply to Mr. Arnold, Dr. Barclay, said this proportion of alum would be detrimental to health, especially to children.—In cross-examination, Dr. Barclay said there might be a trace of alumina in wheat. He was not aware that the stones which were used for grinding were dressed with alum. He had allowed more than a grain for the normal alumina in the wheat. It was absurd to suppose that it could be as much as ten grains in a loaf.

Mr. Russell stated that many analysts of repute entirely disagreed with Dr. Barclay on this point. He asked for an independent analysis. He had no objection to anybody that his worship liked to mention.

The defendant said the loaf was purchased as long ago as the 25th of July, and he did not know that the half given to another analyst would be the same as purchased in his shop. Besides, he did not believe that a proper analysis could be made after such a length of time.

Dr. Barclay said the alum remained in the bread; there was no chance of its evaporating. It could as easily be analysed now as the day it was bought. The alum was used to make inferior flour look white.

Mr. Arnold thought it had been clearly proved that a large amount of alum had been put in the bread, and therefore he should convict the defendant. Being his first offence he should order him to pay a penalty of £5 and costs, or a month's imprisonment in default. The money was paid.

POISONING BY A LOTION.

Lady Cottesloe, of Swanbourne House, near Winslow, Bucks, the wife of Lord Cottesloe, died on Tuesday evening last from the effects of poison taken under the following circumstances:—For some time past her ladyship had been suffering from rheumatism, and on Saturday last consulted Dr. Ceely, of Aylesbury, who prescribed medicine and a lotion for outward application. On Sunday her ladyship, intending to take some of the former, unfortunately poured out some of the lotion instead, which contained poison, and in spite of medical assistance, died on Tuesday evening. At an inquest held at the Manor House, Swanbourne, on Wednesday, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

Reviews.

INSECTIVOROUS PLANTS. By CHARLES DARWIN, M.A., F.R.S. London: J. Murray. 1875.

This new work of Mr. Darwin's will be of special interest to those who took part in, or followed the discussion which occupied our columns a few months ago, on the alleged carnivorous habits of the sundew, butterwort, and some other plants. Those who denied the alleged facts, from the absence of a digestive organ in these plants, will probably now see that they came to too hasty a conclusion. From a long series of experiments on *Drosera*, *Pinguicula*, *Utricularia*, *Dionaea*, and some other less known plants, extending, in the case of the first named genus, over fifteen years, and conducted with the patience and precision and a careful elimination of all sources of error which distinguish all Mr. Darwin's researches, he has shown, beyond apparently all controversy, that there are certain plants which have not only the power of absorbing nitrogenous nutrient substances through their leaves, but of absolutely digesting these substances by the secretion of a fluid, which, like the gastric juice, becomes distinctly acid when excited by the presence of food. This substance analogous in its functions to pepsine, has been analysed by Professor Frankland, though in too small quantities to obtain reliable results. His conclusion, however, is that an acid analogous to or identical with butyric is formed. The methods of capturing their prey vary in the different

genera. *Utricularia* has bladders provided with a valve which allows the ingress but prevents the egress of small animals; *Dionaea* possesses sensitive hairs, irritation of which causes the sudden collapse of the leaf upon the imprisoned insect; *Drosera* has glandular hairs or "tentacles" which secrete a viscid juice, in the coils of which small animals are hopelessly entangled; in *Pinguicula* the margins of the leaf become gradually incurved. The infinitesimally small quantity of nitrogenous matter which causes infection of the glands of *Drosera* is almost past belief, and would be regarded as altogether incredible were it not for the extreme care and accuracy with which Mr. Darwin is known to conduct his experiments. A dose of $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a grain of carbonate of ammonia given to a single gland suffices to produce a well-marked effect; a minute drop containing the $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a grain of phosphate of ammonia, if held for a few seconds in contact with the gland, causes it to be infected; and if a leaf is left immersed for a few hours in a solution so weak that each gland could only absorb $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a grain sensible motion of the tentacles results.

It is impossible, in a short notice, even to allude to the various points of interest brought out in this volume, which may fairly be styled a chapter in the romance, or rather perhaps in the tragedy of natural history. One by one we see the artificial lines of demarcation which have been set up between the animal and vegetable worlds thrown down, and the uniformity of the laws of nature established. But even those who have had the least faith in an absolute distinction between the modes in which plants and animals obtain their food, have hardly been prepared for so close a simulation of the process of digestion to be discovered in plants. The present instance is not the first in which our great physiologist has acted as pioneer in looking up new tracks, and indicating the road to discoveries which have been most pregnant in increasing our knowledge of the phenomena of animal and vegetable life.

MAY'S BRITISH AND IRISH PRESS GUIDE and Advertiser's Dictionary and Handbook for 1875. London: May and Co., 160, Piccadilly.

Even in the present day, when advertising has become an art, such a book as this excites wonder at the enterprise of its compilers. It professes to be a classified, concise, and comprehensive index to the newspaper press of the United Kingdom; to contain a complete list of the daily, weekly, and other newspapers, magazines, reviews, and periodical publications issued in the British islands; and to give in each case the name of the publisher, address of publishing office, day of issue, price, political or religious principles, date of establishment, and special features and characteristics. So far as we can judge the profession is well carried out, the result being a little book that must be invaluable to advertisers as well as acceptable to all who take an interest in current periodical literature.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ETC., RECEIVED.

ON THE RELATION BETWEEN DIABETES AND FOOD and its Application to the Treatment of the Disease. By ARTHUR SCOTT DONKIN, M.D. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1875.

The following journals have been received:—The 'British Medical Journal,' Aug. 14; the 'Medical Times and Gazette,' Aug. 14; the 'Lancet,' Aug. 14; the 'London Medical Record,' Aug. 14; 'Medical Press and Circular,' Aug. 14; 'Nature,' Aug. 14; 'Chemical News,' Aug. 14; 'Gardeners' Chronicle,' Aug. 14; the 'Grocer,' Aug. 14; 'Journal of the Society of Arts,' Aug. 14; 'Grocery News,' Aug. 14; 'Produce Markets Review,' Aug. 14; 'Practical Magazine,' for August; 'Educational Times,' for August; 'British Journal of Dental Science,' for August; 'Journal of Applied Science,' for August; 'American Journal of Pharmacy,' for August; 'Moniteur Scientifique,' for August; 'Pharmaceutische Zeitung,' for Aug. 11 and 14; 'Sanitary Record,' Aug. 14.