

ciating the camphor tree with its close ally, the cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*), are inclined to regard camphor as a product of tropical, or at any rate distinctly hot, countries. As a matter of fact, it is rather a plant for subtropical and warm temperate regions, and it is noteworthy that Mr. H. N. Ridley, F.R.S., in a recent number of the *Agricultural Bulletin of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States*, records that the finest camphor tree he has ever seen outside Japan was one growing near Fowey, in Cornwall. The tree thrives in many parts of Italy, where the average yield of camphor from green leaves is given by Prof. Giglioli as 1.20 per cent., which is very similar to that obtained in Ceylon, and considered sufficient for commercial purposes.

Prof. Giglioli enters fully into the history of camphor, its cultivation in various parts of the world, describes the mode of extraction and preparation of the product, shows by chemical and industrial tests that camphor of good quality can be produced in Italy, and is of opinion that a successful industry there is quite feasible. Finally, it is worth noting that the book has as footnotes and in a special appendix very full bibliographic references to all aspects of the subject.

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POPULAR GARDENING.

Garden Rockery: How to Make, Plant, and Manage it. By F. G. Heath. Pp. vi+173. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 1908.) Price 1s.

THE object of this popularly-written book is frankly stated by the author in the preface as "to show the worn and worried man, or woman, of business how to obtain a maximum of enjoyment with a minimum of preliminary attention and consideration." It appears to be an attempt to induce those who have but little time, or inclination, for gardening, to take up a branch of that art which in our opinion demands sympathetic treatment and constant ungrudging attention to small details of cultivation.

We sympathise with any efforts that are made to popularise gardening, but it is to be feared that the contempt for high cultivation expressed in many of the author's remarks is scarcely likely to be helpful to those who may be desirous of maintaining their rockeries in a condition that will afford most pleasure to their owners. Eden may, or may not, have "yielded food and fruit not, at any rate, inferior in quality to that of our own times," but whatever may be the truth in regard to such a statement, we feel sure that, with very few exceptions, the fruits of the earth, as we know them, are much improved by cultivation, including in this term the processes of cross-breeding and selection of varieties. But the author declaims against the "vicious practice" of developing single into double flowers, or of making the naturally white flower blue, red or yellow.

"Nature's variations in form and colour," he says, "are endless, and should suffice for the most exacting horticultural taste, without the display of cunning efforts to alter her wise disposition of form and colour."

All this, it would appear, has little to do with the making or planting of rockeries, but this book discusses such questions before asking in the third chapter "What is Rockery?" Subsequent chapters give directions as to what materials to use in the formation of a rockery, and describe how rocks are generally seen in a state of nature, whether of volcanic origin or the result of the "weathering" of exposed rocks.

A list of British ferns is given, and some of the commoner flowering plants that may be cultivated on rockeries, and the text is relieved with forty-five illustrations which have been reproduced from photographs. There are several mis-spellings in the lists, and whilst many of the terminations of the specific names appear to have been purposely brought into conformity with the recommendations of the Vienna Conference, there is no consistency in this matter.

In one of these lists *Linaria cymbalaria* is described as growing 3 inches high, but upon a rockery it is surely more useful for this species to trail 24 inches. The author speaks of *Primula vulgaris* as the wild plant, and suggests that it is the progenitor of such species as *P. farinosa*, *P. scotica*, *P. floribunda*, *P. auricula*, and others, but these plants are just as wild as *P. vulgaris*, and we are unable to discover the evidence upon which the author bases his deduction. Of *Linnaea borealis* (mis-spelt *Linnea*) the author timidly states that it is believed this plant was named after Linnæus, because it was understood to be a favourite plant of his! The plant was undoubtedly named by Gronovius, not only after the great botanist, but at his request.

FLOREAT CANADA!

Canada's Fertile Northland. Evidence heard before a Select Committee of the Senate of Canada, 1906-7. Edited by Captain E. J. Chambers. Pp. 140; with illustrations and a volume of maps. (Ottawa: Government Printing Bureau, 1908.)

WITH characteristic foresight, the Government of Canada has collected such information as is available regarding the possibilities of the northern regions of the dominion as a field for immigration. The title of these cloth-bound volumes is attractive, and certainly optimistic. The evidence of those who know the country, given with simple directness, does not emphasise its fertility, and it soon becomes obvious that a large part of the 1,637,550 square miles discussed has emerged so recently from the Glacial epoch that soils have only just begun to form. It is fair to add that a very large part remains unsurveyed and unprospected.

The handsome maps provided record geographical advances made in quite recent times, and there are still some inviting areas worthy of a Sven Hedin or a Nansen, skilled in the lore of stream and forest. For the agriculturist there are many assurances that potatoes are not cut off by frosts in summer; but the raising of wheat is naturally more precarious. Mr. Tyrrell (pp. 89-93) describes a forest-belt south-west of Hudson's Bay as suitable for agriculture, owing to the warm bright summers. "The snow