In the year 1787 there was in Mexico a Spanish botanical commission, headed by Martin Sesse; and the gentlemen of this corps received from the Indians of Toluca an unknown plant which the Indians called Macpalxochilcuahuitl (!) this formidable morsel being a compound word, from elements meaning "hand," "flower" and "tree." The blossoms are sub-campanulate, fleshy and five-petaled, or, rather, two-sepaled, since the corolla is wanting. The pistil, which is green, represents the thumb of the hand, and fertilization is accomplished by the fingers curling over it so as to shed upon it the pollen from their anthers. The stamens or fingers, which constitute the peculiarity of the flower, are four, monodelphous at the base, but separate beyond that point. They are of unequal length, with colong anthers. The ovary is pentagonal, the fruit capsular, with ten to twelve seeds in each lobe. The botanical attributes of this plant place it in the family Bombacese. Specifically the tree is cheiros-temun platanoides.

The group of stamens is certainly very suggestive of a bloody, claw like or skeletontred human hand, and the first sight of one of these flowers causes a weird impression. It was, no doubt, partly this trait and partly the numerical rarit of the plant that gave it so much importance among the Indians. "Come! There was but one tree at Toluca, and none other stown throughout the country, though tradition has it that these plants were cultivated to some 'extent by the kings of Tex-Very few of the seeds mature, and still fewer germinate.

THE "FEVER FLOWER." In the sub-tropical regions of the state of Vera Cruz there is a plant known as "the fever flower," whose blossom, which is a flesly spathe, somewhat similar in shape and size to that of the calla hilly, is lined within with a hue like the cheeks of a fever flushed patient, while at noon it is, even in the dense shade, burning hot to the touch, and toward evening it becomes thickly beaded with drops like those of a dense perspiration. It is said also that the fumes from this flower, kept in a room, will produce a fever in the human tenants. The Mexican local botanists had too vague and insufficient knowledge to classify this interesting specimen, and I was never able to procure it under such conditions as to study all its parts, but I should

The "duck plant," so called, is another dimber, or twiner, with large cordate leaves, as large as one's two hands. The flower is perhaps a foot long, and its contours are very suggestive of a duck sitting "topside down." Within it presents a surface of most exquisite velvety softness, of mottled pale green and rich, dark maroon. Alas! when passee this flower is quite as unfragrant as its animal prototype when it becomes "high"-in fact it smells rank unto heaven with a most disgusting stench.

There is a curious story current in Northorn Mexico of a tree which would seem to be closely akin to the fabled upas trees. It is described as of the size of a large apple tree, with similar foliage, and it is said that the ground round about it is literally carpeted with butterflies and other insects that are killed by its distilled venom. The larger animals also fall prey to its noxious properties, though cattle and such creatures for the most part avoid it, as if by either instinct or observation. A romantic tale is also told of a young Mexican. I believe the story runs he was a vaquero on the bacienda, who persuaded his successful rival in the affections of a fair muchacha to lie down to rest beneath this vampire tree. The bated rival, being a stranger to that section and ignorant of the toxic properties of his leafy canopy, complied-and never awakened from his

THE "PALO DE LECHE." Less mythical and perhaps more striking are the accounts given of the palo de leche of Tierra Caliente-the hot coast lowlands. The term palo de leche means simply milky plant, and is applied from the milky character of the sap exuded from all the plants of this genus. All these trees belong to the Euphorbiacea, one of which is the Euphorbia poinsettia or Pulcherrima, whose scarlet whorls of bracts are so effective in gardens or enservatories. This splendid Euphorbia is known in Mexico as "the flower of the nativity. It is used as a remedy in pulmonary affections. I have never seen anything like the luxuriance of its growth around Cuernavaca, the city where Maximilian had his summer residence. A great many of the cupal baccous plants, if not all, are called palo de leche, and their uses are diverse. The Indians of the coast use it for fishing, simply throwing the leaves into the water, when the fish, stupefied, rise to the surface.

The principal use among these people, however, is a far less innocent one-destroying life instead of contributing to its support. The thick, acrid, milky juice or sap is extractly poisoneus. If thrown upon afire it gives out fumes which produce an agonizing headache and nausea. Taken in-ternally, it is a deadly poison, which causes, according to the way it is prepared and administered, death or insanity. It is popularly supposed that the madness of the ill fated Empress Carlotta was caused by palo de leche. Mexicans often deny this statement, but they admit and fear its deadly power in other respects.

It is strongly asseverated that the Indians can so prepare the poison as to regulate the period of time in which it will prove fatal. Foreign chemists with whom I have talked scoff at this idea, but it does not seem so utterly improbable, in view of the exactpess with which can be determined the opcratica of various germs and microbes. The fact many that pale de leche is a most powerful and deadly substance, and many are the tragedies enacted through its instrumentality in the Tierra Caliente. The negation of the chemists and doctors is also weakened in force by their vehement denunciations of the practice of the Indians, whose remedies, nevertheless, often accomplish results which all the science of the colleges has failed to attain. In dropsy, for instance, in cases where all the treatment and repeated operations by regularly appointed practitioners had proved totally inefficacious, the simple herbal-remedies of ignorant, bare footed, half naked Indians have in three days almost entirely reduced the distension and in a short period produced a radical cure, as may be attested by the patients, today alive, strong, well and active in Mexico.-Y. H Addis in San Francisco Chronicle.

Strength of the Army. Surgeon General Moore, in his annual re-port, says that the mean strength of the army for the past year, including officers, was 23,841, of which 21,601 were white and 2,240 were colored. There wers 214 deaths and 714 discharges for disability curing the

year. - Frank Leslie's. If we would have powerful minds we must think'; if powerful muscles.

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THE RUSSIAN ARTIST.

VERESTCHAGIN AMID THE CARNAGE OF THE BATTLEFIELD.

Interesting Reminiscences of an Eye Witness-A Look Upon Plevna-Scobelaff at

Verestchagin It was during the Russo-Turkish war, on the battlefield of Plevna. is intimately connected with that of the famous Scobeleff, the White general, and of J. A. MacGahan, the greatest of war correspondents. Verestchagin was in an official capacity as artistic historian of the war, and many of the pictures to be exhibited I saw in their first stages as rough sketches. The first time I saw him was during the memorable retreat of Scobeleff's forces in August, 1877, from his position on the extreme left of the Russian attacking forces, on the Green mountains, where he held two of four redoubts that he had captured on the first day of the Record. fight for over forty-eight hours, though ho had lost over 8,000 out of the 25,000 under his command. I was riding with MacGahan, in fact, and accompanied the intrepid Ohioan on the afternoon of the previous day in his search for Scobeleff's headquarters.

They were great figures of that war-these three men, Scobeleff, MacGahan and Verestchagin. MacGahan was a free lance, as it were, among the Russians; and wherever he went he was saluted by the soldiers as a friend. I remember one day he shouted out

"Come! I know where the grapes grov plentifully. Let us go thither." And I followed the genial invitation, and we rode together along the pleasant Bulga-

rian valleys, while yet the two opposing ar- \$1 per acre. mies were quiet, and the day for the Russians to deliver the assault had not been decided upon. Finally we came to the crest of flavor, and the big maize stalks hid us en- state of cultivation. Will be sold cheap. a plateau, where the grapes grew in delicious

to a point of the plateau from whenco we third of land in cultivation. could look fairly down upon the little city of Plevna, only two miles away. What was my surprise three days afterward, when accompanying the Russian headquarters staff, to find that the very place had been selected by Krudener from which to direct the conflict. It was MacGahan who had told him o good condition. Lot 170x50 feet, where the grapes were of delicious quality, and where the best view of the city of on which is a good vineyard of scup-Plevna and the whole battlefield could be

It was a brilliant group of officers who formed a semi-circle round the commanderquaint conceit of floral nature. It is a in-chief that drizzly day and watched the battle from 11 o'clock in the morning till not unlike those of the "morning glory," but | well in the afternoon, and then began to retire, followed by the vast army that had been repulsed all along the line, except on the extreme left, where Scobeleff still held his ground, and continued to hold in spite of the commands sent to him. In the group collected in front of Plevna that day were two brothers of Verestchagin, the one a captain of Cossacks, Alexander; the other, Sergius Vasilli, both brave as they were handsome. Alexander accompanied Scobeleff to his position, and while riding with him was wounded, and had then to be sent back to Bucharest. Sergius met, unfortunately, a terrible end, slain by the Turkish Circassians. It is a delight to read Alexander's experiences during that campaign, to follow him with Scobeleff and to read his curious

On the morning after Krudencr's defeat, while Scobeleff still held two redoubts on the Green mountain, MacGahan was up early | Ar Maxton, and ready to go and look for the White general. It was a long search for him, and it was not till nearly 4 in the afternoon that we got near him, and then he was too busy in directing the retreat to be approached. We halted our horses and watched the decimated regiments passing to the rear, thousands after thousands, the bundreds of wounded borne on stretchers or assisted along by their companions. Near by, seated on a bank, was a handsome, brown bearded man, sketching the scene.

"Look!" said MacGahan, "there is Veretschagin."

The visitors to the exhibition will see the painting for which the celebrated artist was there making his sketches, will see the handsome blonde general-of whom Coroner Messemer reminds you somewhat in appearance -as he appeared dashing hither and thither on his white horse, keeping his beaten forces in order. Then we lost Scobeleff again, and it took us an hour after darkness had spread all round before we discovered him again, and then his tent was pointed out to us, planted in a small ravine, guarded by a few companies of his Cossacks.

The scene inside Scobeleff's tent was a curiously interesting one. The famous gen-eral greeted us warmly in fluent English, his language interspersed with a goodly number of thoroughly Anglo-Saxon swear words. "The dash, dash, dash, dash, dash; if they

had only done all round what my men have done we would have been in Plevna to-night. Think of the poor fellows left behind-6,000 of them at the least sacrificed to incompetency." And the tears streamed down his

It was a strange scene. Not an hour before and he had been directing the retreat of his army, and there he was in his tent, standing before a mirror completing his toilet. He had taken a bath, his valet had brought him Wednesdays and Fridays. a complete change of linen, which he had donned. We watched him carefully brush his flowing beard, and then he picked up his manicure set and began polishing his long, beautiful nails, of which he was extremely proud. Four hours before he had been in the last redoubt and had had his horse shot under him, and there he was, not three miles a way from the battlefield, as calmly attending to his personal appearance as if he were about to attend a banquet or a public ball.

"And new, boys," he said when he had finished, "share pot luck with me, Verestchagin will be around shortly, and we will

try and forget our disaster." But Verestchagin did not turn up, having failed to find the general's tent and gone further back to the rear. I saw him many times afterward, always with his sketch book, for he was one of the busiest and most conscientious of workers, and never let a skirmish or a military movement escape him if he could help it. His paintings are faithful reproductions of the hideous scenes that he there placed in his sketch book. The charge has been made that he is too realistic in his work; that his war paintings are too horrible in their realism, and that he has failed to embody the quality of heroism that belongs to warfare and to a victorious army. In answer to this charge he says, admitting its truth, that he does not understand why war should be idealized and made beautiful when it is, as a matter of fact, "the most awful and blood curdling institution on the face of God's earth. The criticism has been made, I know, that I should have infused more of romance and chivalry in the scenes depicted, but I never intended to do so; that is the work of artists who have never seen a battlefield. I saw only the heaps of dead and dying, distorted faces and torn limbs—death and blood and destruction everywhere; and what I saw I have attempted faithfully to give again on my canvases."—New York Journal.

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There is less corn in this community now than ever before known at this season of the year. Not twenty-five bushels have been sold at this place this fall, and not a store His Toilet After an Assault-A Realistic in our town has a single bushel for sale. None is brought here from the It is many years since I first saw M. surrounding country simply because none, or at least very little, was madand the memory of my first glimpse of him this year. There are probably no a dozen farmers in this township who will have any corn for sale this winter. The meal that is now bein sold here is brought from Richmonand other cities. How some of our people will struggle through this winter is a mystery. There will cer-

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Ar Mount Airy

TRAINS M	ner at Green IOVING Se	
Le Mount Airy,	5:00 a m	
Ar Greensboro,	9:25 a m	4:40 p m
Le Greensboro,		
Ar Sandford,	1:35 p m	2:00 p m
Le Sandford,		
Ar Favetteville,	4:00 p m	5:50 p m
Le Favetteville,		6:25 a m
Ar Maxton.		
Le Maxton.	6:25 p m	10 15 a m
Ar Bennettsville,	7:30 p m	12:15 p m

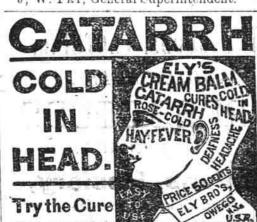
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Rheumatism	of rheumatism." Samuel Hutchinson, South Cornish, N. H.	
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make inimediate payment to him.

JAS. A. COVINGTON,

Asm'r of Caroline C. Covington, dec'd Oct. 22, 1888.

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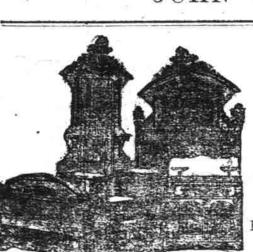


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