

the various specimens in the box. Thus the proximal and middle joints of the second, third, and fourth fingers, and the under side of the wrist of that hand were badly affected, while the upper side of the hand was not poisoned at all. My left hand was not poisoned, and I account for this by the fact that it was kept back and not used in indicating plants to be examined by the assistant.

I do not see how anyone can escape from the conclusion that that which poisoned me so severely and so peculiarly was volatile enough to be carried up (apparently in straight lines) in the warm air which escapes from the tin collecting box (vasculum) when opened in my study. In this case there was no contact on my part with the Poison Ivy, nor with any other plants in the vasculum. I had been poisoned too often to be careless when warned by my assistant. I am not denying the truth of Dr. Pfaff's conclusion that there is a non-volatile poisonous oil in the Poison Ivy. I am forced to conclude that there is a volatile poison, also, in this plant.

These facts detailed, although published in the Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1901, are new to me.

The plant is so dangerous that I have been instrumental in destroying every one that I could hear of, with the exception of the single one in the Botanic Gardens, which is in a safe place as far as visitors are concerned.

If any of my readers should know of any other plants, I strongly advise them to take steps for their destruction.

### *Dioscorea transversa* R.Br., A YAM, NATIVE OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

Many years ago, in sending me a sample of excellent arrowroot prepared by a white man from this yam, Mr. Forester Pope, then of the Tweed River, reported that, during the washing of the pulp, an acute irritation was felt in those parts of the hands and arms which came into contact with it.

I do not remember an irritation in connection with yams before, and the matter is worthy of note.

If my readers will turn to my second article on some plants which cause inflammation or irritation of the skin in the *Gazette* for December, 1909, they will see that I give references to irritation in dealing with Hyacinth bulbs and the corms of the common Arum Lily of Sydney gardens. The cause there is attributed to minute needle-shaped crystals of oxalate of lime, and it may be (I simply throw out the suggestion) that a similar explanation may account for the deleteriousness of the yam in the case just referred to.