

in winter, their bowels are found filled with these leaves; and it is very extraordinary that if those bowels are given to dogs, they become quite stupid and as it were drunk, and often fall so sick that they seem to be at the point of death, but the people, who have eaten the venison, have not felt the least indisposition. The leaves of the *Kalmia* are likewise the winter food of those birds, which the *Swedes in North America* call *Hazel-hens*, and which stay here all winter, for when they are killed, their crop is found quite filled with them.

The wood of the *Kalmia* is very hard, and some people, on that account, make the axis of their pullies of it. Weavers' shuttles are chiefly made of it, and the weavers are of opinion that no wood in this country is better for this purpose, for it is compact, may be made very smooth, and does not easily crack, or burst. The joiners and turners here employ it in making all kinds of work, which requires the best wood; they chiefly use the root because it is quite yellow; the wood has a very suitable hardness and fineness, and from the center, spread as it were small rays, which are at some distance from each other. When the leaves of the *Kal-*

*mia* are thrown into the fire, they make a crackling like salt. The chimney sweepers make brooms in winter of the branches with the leaves on them, since they cannot get others in that season. In the summer of the year 1750, a certain kind of worms devoured the leaves of almost all the trees in *Pennsylvania*: yet they did not venture to attack the leaves of the *Kalmia*. Some people asserted that when a fire happened in the woods, it never went further, as soon as it came to the *Kalmias*, or *Spoon trees*.

#### The Dwarf Laurel

MAY the 28th, 1749. The *Magnolia glauca* was now in full bloom. Its flowers have a very pleasant fragrant, which refreshes the travellers in the woods, especially towards the evening. The flowers of the wild vine afterwards supplied the place of those of the *Magnolia*. Several other flowers contribute likewise towards perfuming the ambient air.

The *Kalmia angustifolia* was now everywhere in flower. It grows chiefly on sandy heaths, or on dry, poor grounds, which few other plants will agree with; it is common in *Pennsylvania*, but particularly in *New Jersey*, and the province of *New York*, it is

scarce in *Canada*; its leaves stay in winter; the flowers are a real ornament to the woods; they grow in bunches like crowns, and are of a fine lively purple colour; at the bottom is a circle of deep purple, and within it a greyish or whitish colour. The flowers grow as aforesaid, in bunches, round the extremity of the stalk, and make it look like a decorated pyramid. The *English at New York* call this plant the *Dwarf Laurel*. Its qualities are the same with those of the *Kalmia latifolia*, viz. that it kills sheep and other lesser animals, when they eat plentifully of it. I do not know whether it is noxious to the greater cattle. It is not of any known use, and only serves to attract the eye whilst in flower.

The *Kalmia latifolia* was likewise in full bloom at present. It rivals the preceding one, in the beauty of its colour; yet though they are conspicuous in regard to the colours and shape of their flowers, they are no ways remarkable for smell, such as the *Magnolia* is; for they have little or no smell at all. So equally and justly does nature distribute her gifts; no part of the creation has them all, each has its own, and none is absolutely without a share of them.

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## Country's Dialects Recorded For Study

Philology

THE dry New England manner of speech, the southern drawl, Pennsylvania Dutch rising inflections, the Western twang—we pick them out by ear as we hear Americans talk. But now, two professors at Columbia University are collecting American dialects and making a careful scientific analysis of subtle differences. The New Englander of the sea, for example, has a different way of using tongue and lips in his speech from the New Englander of the hills.

More than 200 phonograph records, including 50 speeches by famous people, have been collected by Prof. Harry M. Ayres and Prof. W. Cabell Greet. Their library contains what would appear to be a strange collection of literature, 150 copies of the same story, "Grip the Rat," but every copy of the story is spoken by a different American voice. They have been aided in collecting varieties of American speech by the fact that the 14,000 summer school students at the university have a convenient custom

of gathering beneath trees named for their states. Here, on the campus, can be picked out and sorted plenty of dialects, pure and mixed.

In a progress report to the journal, *American Speech*, the two professors point out that education does not completely eradicate local speech peculiarities. Students reproduce local traits to a surprising degree, they have found. The terror of the microphone proves an aid in scaring artificial mannerisms out of most students who have added their voices to the collections.

The report goes into detail regarding differences in specific vowels and consonants in various parts of the United States and Canada. The typical New Englander of the coast speaks with a sharp attack and brisk utterance. The vowel a, which is one of the letters that has a vivid and changeable personality on the American tongue, is most typically New England in asked, aunt, and can't where the tone is placed far front. In barn, the a is located slightly

farther back, and the professors explain that in no case is this sound as far back as in the ordinary American pronunciation of father.

The mountain New Englander has "a slow elegaic cast in his speech tone, a certain doubt as to the advisability of proceeding, coupled with a resigned acceptance of the necessity of doing so," the report graphically explains. The a sound in this region is shorter than in the speech of the sea coast.

This example of contrast indicates the analytic method of the study, which goes into much detail and uses many technical terms such as fronting, cupping, and vowel gliding, to describe the sounds Americans make when they talk.

Records of the various speech types of a single community, Williamsburg, Virginia, were this summer gathered under the direction of Prof. Greet and should yield interesting results, Prof. Ayres stated.

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