

MEADOW SAXIFRAGE, from its leaves resembling those of the burnet saxifrage, *Silaus pratensis*, Bess.

MEADOW SWEET, or, as in Turner, MEDE-SWETE, a meaningless name, a corruption of *mead-wort*, A.S. *mede-* or *medo-wyrt*, Da. *miöd-urt*, Sw. *miöd-ört*, the *mead-*, or honey-wine-herb. Hill tells us in his Herbal, p. 23, that "the flowers mixed with mead give it the flavour of the Greek wines," and this is unquestionably the source of the word. Nennich also says that it gives beer, and various wines, and other drinks an agreeable flavour. The Latin name, *Regina prati*, meadow's queen, has misled our herbalists, in their ignorance of its use, to form the above strangely compounded word *Meadow-sweet*. *Spiræa ulmaria*, L.

MEAD-WORT, or MEDE-WORT, the old and correct name of the so-called MEADOW SWEET. See above.

MEAL-BERRY, Da. *meelbær*, Norw. *miölbær*, from the floury character of the cellular structure of its fruit, *Arctostaphylos Uva ursi*, Spr.

MEALY-TREE, from the mealy surface of the young shoots and leaves, *Viburnum Lantana*, L.

MEDICK, L. *Medica*, Gr. *μηδικη βοτάνη*, (Diosc. ii., 177), the name of some plant that according to Pliny (l. xviii. c. 43) was introduced into Greece by the army of Darius, and called so to mean *Median*. It seems formerly to have been given to a sainfoin, but is at present assigned to the lucerne and its congeners. *Medicago sativa*, L., etc.

MEDLAR, called in Normandy and Anjou *meslier*, from L. *mespilus*, but as the verb *mesler* became in English *meddle*, so this fruit also, although a word of different origin, took a *d* for an *s*, and became *medlar*.

*Mespilus germanica*, L.

MELANCHOLY GENTLEMAN, from its sad colour,

*Hesperis tristis*, L.

MELANCHOLY THISTLE, from its supposed virtue in the cure of melancholy, *Carduus heterophyllus*, L.