1. Parasol Mushroom. 2. Long-Cone Flower. 3. Water Plantain. 4. Common Plantain.

Miss Butler will conduct parties through the wild botanic garden in Glenwood park, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, meeting them at the terminus of the Fourth avenue south and Sixth avenue north street railway, Sixth and Russell avenues, at 10 o'clock; also Saturday and Sunday afternoons, meeting them at 2:30 o'clock at the same place. One hour later, on the same days, those coming by automobile or carriage will be met near the entrance of the garden on the boulevard, at a point northeast of Birch pond, in Glenwood park. To reach Birch pond, turn in at the left on Western avenue, where the park boulevard intersects the avenue.

Phones—T. S. Calhoun 1021, N. W. Main 4295.

The cosmopolite weed, the common plantain or ribwort (Plantago major) is presented in this paper for comparison with the somewhat more decorative water plantain, Alisma Plantago. But it is hoped that the former will win some favor, although universally considered a homely weed. The contrast of the wandlike, fruiting spikes with the deeply ribbed rosette of leaves is surely not without charm. The leaves illustrate one of the methods of preventing over-shading, a difficulty met with in the rosette habit. In the plantain each leaf gets its modicum of light and air, by the upper and inner leaves being smaller and shorter stalked than the lower ones. Birds are fond of the seeds enclosed in the little rounded pods, which are lidded like snuff boxes. Farmers put the leaves in their hats to protect from sunstroke in haying time. Again, when macerated, the leaves are deemed a sovereign remedy to used as a poultice for inflammatory bruises.

The water plantain, fringing pools and lakes, is no relation to the roadside weed. It has received its name from the similarity of the leaves in shape, arrangement and venation. The small flowers are entirely different, being white and arranged in a large, loose, many branched cluster.

Veritable fields of cloth of gold are now gleaming with sunflowers, cone flowers and golden rods, not for kings alone, but for all the people. In this display of gold the tall cone-flower, Rudbeckia laciniate, takes the lead—a brother of Black-Eyed Susan, with eyes of golden brown, fringed with longer, drooping lashes of paler yellow. The palmi-parted leaf readily shows that it is the original of the popular favorite, the cultivated golden glow. Many prefer the single wilding, for it is less insistent to be observed and does not pall upon the taste. It fulfills, moreover, its purpose in nature, that of producing seed.

Lepackys pinnata, shown in the print above, has a longer cone and more drooping rays. It is abundant on the prairies. L. columnaris is distinguished by a still longer and slenderer cone, but with shorter rays. A variety has lovely velvety petals of dahlia red, with a dash of yellow at the base. This long cone-flower, with its variety, is the pride of a beautiful garden in the city, whose owner delights in native plants.

A much admired annual is now in bloom in the wild garden—the partridge pea, Cassia Chamaechrista. The beauty of the large flower of clear, bright yellow is enhanced by a purplish brown eye formed by the stamens and the blotching of some of the petals. The delicate, fresh, green leaflets of the compound leaf close together when touched and also for protection from cold at night. Sensitiveness is an endowment of all forms of life. As plants have no nerve fibers, stimuli are conveyed from cell to cell. Many mem- in a marked degree. The tendrils of the common pea and the tendrils or stems of all climbers must have this quality in order to find the required support. The foliage of the mimosas, plants common in warm regions, make instant response to disturbing in-

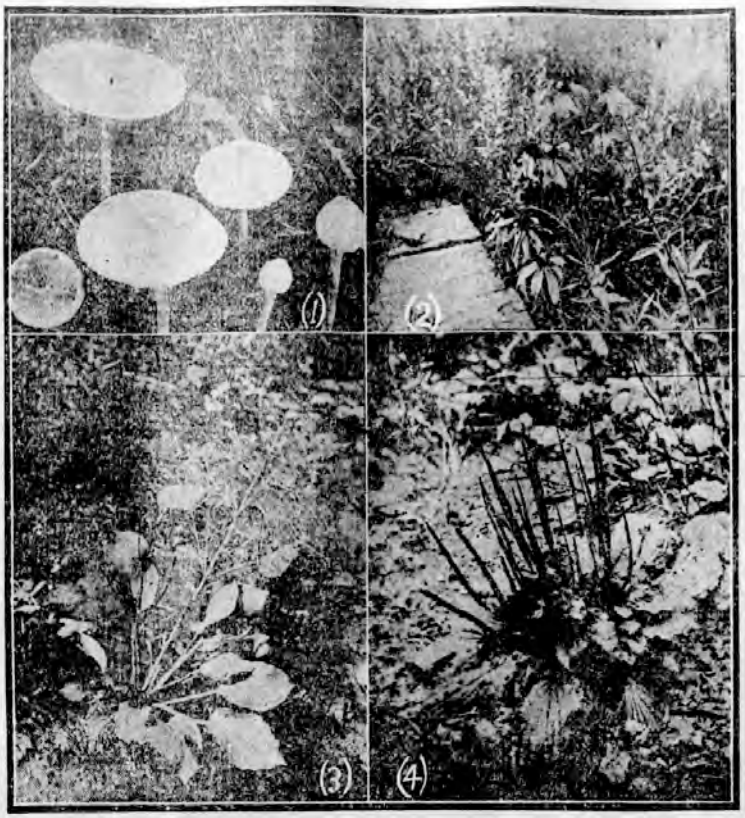
fluences. "At the tramp of the horse's hoof on the turf of the prairies far in advance are closed the leaves of the shrinking mimosa." The natives call the mimosa "shame;" for, presto! a filmy mass of green turns at a touch into a bunch of seemingly dry twigs, which slowly erect themselves and resume their leafy appearance when the danger is past.

A large crop of mushrooms—edible and inedible, of all sizes, shapes and colors—promoted by the frequent warm showers, are daily harvested. The mental, if not the physical appetite, is keenly whetted of those inoculated with a passion for these interesting forms of vegetable life. The photograph shows different stages of development of the edible parasol mushroom, Lepiota procera. The largest specimen was 15 inches high, and the cap measured 8½ inches across. One cap is broken off, so that the gills, the spore-bearing surface, may be seen. Although the mushroom is taken as a type of rapid growth, the "spawn"—the slender, many-branched, subterranean fibers—are of slow formation and may be of great age. Small round "buttons" appear on these fibers and expand quickly into the aerial, spore-producing bodies. In this species of Lepiota the cap at the top of the stalk at first resembles a small cone. It finally spreads out like a Japanese parasol, breaking away the veil—a membrane covering the gills—a vestige of which remains in the form of a ring, which again, like a parasol, may be moved up and down the stem. In the ring on the stem and the scaly top of the cap this fungus is like a deadly Amanita, but it is without the volva or cup at the base, a character of the poisonous genus.

The question is often asked, how can edible fungi be distinguished from the poisonous forms? No infallible rule can be given. One must learn to distinguish carefully one species from another, and never taste of an unknown or doubtful specimen.

Parts of this article have been re-arranged to fit the page space

Common Plantain Is Compared With the Alisma Plantago, Otherwise Known as the Water Variety, by Miss Butler



—Photos by M. K. Meeker.

1. Parasol Mushroom. 2. Long-Cone Flower. 3. Water Plantain. 4. Common Plantain.