

the *Labiata* family,—a family to which the lavenders, the mints, the thymes, and the hyssops belong, with basil, rosemary, and marjorum,—all plants of “gray renown,” as Shenstone happily remarks in his description of the herbal of his “Schoolmistress.”

“ Herbs too she knew, and well of each could speak,
That in her garden sipp’d the silvery dew,
Where no vain flower disclos’d a gaudy streak,
But herbs for use and physic not a few,
Of gray renown, within those borders grew.
The tufted basil, pun-provoking thyme,
And fragrant balm, and sage of sober hue.

* * * * *

“ And marjorum sweet in shepherd’s posie found,
And lavender, whose spikes of azure-bloom
Shall be erewhile in arid bundles bound,
To lurk amid her labours of the loom,
And crown her kerchiefs clean with meikle rare perfume.

“ And here trim rosemary, that whilom crowned
The daintiest garden of the proudest peer,
Ere, driven from its envied site, it found
A sacred shelter for its branches here,
Where, edged with gold, its glittering skirts appear,
With horehound gray, and mint of softer green.”

All the plants here enumerated belong to the labiate family ; which, though unfashionable even in Shenstone’s days, have still their products favourably received in the very best society. The rosemary, whose banishment from the gardens of the great he specially records, enters largely into the composition of eau de Cologne. Of the lavenders, one species (*Lavendula vera*) yields the well-known lavender oil, and another (*L. latifolia*) the spike oil. The peppermint (*Meanthia viridis*) furnishes the essence so popular under that name among our confectioners ; and one of the most valued perfumes of the East (next to the famous *Attar*, a product of the *Rosaceæ*) is the oil of the *Patchouly* plant, another of the labiates. Let me indulge, ere quitting this part of the subject, in a