

countered by Buhse in the low mountains near Reshm (white galbanum). Galbanum is also called *kilyānī* in Persian.

Borszczow has discovered in the Aralo-Caspian region another species of *Ferula*, named by him *F. schair* from the native word *šair* (=Persian *šīr*, "milk-juice") for this plant. The juice of this species has the same properties as galbanum; also the plant has the same odor.

Abu Mansur¹ mentions a *Ferula* under the name *sakbīnaj* (Arabic form, Persian *sakbīna*), which his translator, the Persian physician Achundow, has identified with the Sagapenum resin of *Ferula persica*, said to be similar to galbanum and to be gathered in the mountains of Luristan. According to FLÜCKIGER and HANBURY,² the botanical origin of Sagapenum is unknown; but there is no doubt that this word (*σαγάπηνον* in Dioscorides, III, 95, and Galenus; *sacopenium* in Pliny, XII, 56), in mediæval pharmacy often written *serapinum*, is derived from the Persian word.

The galbanum employed in India is imported from Persia to Bombay. WATT³ distinguishes three kinds known in commerce,—Levant, Persian solid, and Persian liquid. The first comes from Shiraz, the second has an odor of turpentine, and the third is the *gaoshir* or *jawāshir*; the latter being a yellow or greenish semi-fluid resin, generally mixed with the stems, flowers, and fruits of the plant. It is obtained from the stem, which, when injured, yields an orange-yellow gummy fluid. Generally, however, the galbanum of commerce forms round, agglutinated tears, about the size of peas, orange-brown outside, yellowish-white or bluish-green inside. The odor is not disagreeable, like that of *asafoetida*, and the taste is bitter.

Galbanum consists of about 65 per cent resin, 20 per cent gum, and from 3 to 7 per cent volatile oil.

¹ ACHUNDOW, Abu Mansur, p. 84.

² Pharmacographia, p. 342.

³ Commercial Products of India, p. 535.