Basic Detail Report

"DRAGON'S BLOOD" AS LOVE PHILTRE.

(Inspissated juice of Pterocarpus draco.)

SOME years ago I was informed by one of my herbalist friends "down East," that he often had visits to his shop by girls of the locality, chiefly factory hands, and that they came in to buy penny packets of dragon's blood. His interest being aroused, he jokingly asked them what they wanted it for, and from the amused and sometimes confused appearance of the girls, added to his own experience and knowledge, he said there was no doubt the dragon's blood was used as a love philtre. Other herbalists I consulted in Shoreditch and Bromley-by-Bow told me the same, adding that the girls seemed half ashamed when asking for it.

21

Book

Date

1925

Medium

Paper, cardboard, fabric

Description

A 1925 edition of the book "Magic in Modern London by Edward Lovett of the Folklore Society", with a red cloth cover. A charmingly written but slim volume with some of the key encounters Lovett had with many of his "sources" of both tales and objects from the East End and elsewhere. It is a great pity Lovett did not seem to write very much about his pieces and the stories behind them. Currently on loan to the Royal College of Nursing for their exhibition "Who Cares: the History of Emotions in Nursing" to open in January 2020 and running until December 2021.

Dimensions

Object/Work: 145 x 18 x 220 mm