

but I heard from Dobbin, the cart horse, that she had tried to unseat her master, by running into a tree, an old trick of hers, and that he became so angry that he shot her. Dear mother, better that death than ploughing with draught horses!

Now my father, a prize Shetland, whom I have not mentioned before, still lived with the same wicked old master. How beautiful my father was! But alas! his temper was very uncertain, and he had been known to bite the children. Poor father! He, too, had been badly treated: ridden by long-legged hobbledoys, whose feet reached the ground, made to carry heavy loads of wood and water (for Shetlands are very strong), and hardly fed at all. One day the naughty child of the bad master tried to fill the Shetland's ears with water, and because my father bit her, the master thrashed him so unmercifully, that he died. And so I am alone—an orphan!

I love my home and the children. The little boy is the same age as I am, and when we were both two years old, I was given to him, for his very own. My master's wife is afraid of me, for she says I have bad blood on both sides. Such a mistake! my parents only defended themselves.

Oh, the great joy I recently had! My little master's sister, took me to a show. How I laughed and pranced when I saw the great ugly motor cars, with their huge, ugly bodies! I looked proudly at my slender limbs and beautiful coat, and I knew my little rider loved me to rear and prance, and make everyone look at me. When I won blue prize cards, which are far superior to red, well, I was a proud, happy pony; and I whinnied, and tossed my head, for had I not won more prizes than any other horse? The judge (such a nice man—he patted me) said I needed still more education. I wonder what he meant, but I will try very hard, and next year I will jump hurdles. What fun that will be!

I can tell you another strange happening. I was put into harness, in a sulky. Now I had often longed to draw that little sulky, so I stood very still, and had strange harness put on me, but I did not care. Hurrah! we were off. How I trotted, and everyone said how beautiful and willing I was. Now I can take my little owner and his big sisters for picnics, and to "Girl Guide Meetings"; for ten miles is not such a great distance for the son of a Shetland and a blood mare.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TREES.

No. 6.—THE MARRI.

(By C. A. GARDNER, Government Botanist.)

You are all familiar with the tree known as the red gum, but I want you in future to give it its true name—the marri tree. The true red gum is common in South Australia, and it is also to be found in this State, to the north of the Murchison. In a future article I intend telling you just how it differs from the marri. Let us now learn all we can about this splendid tree.

The marri has a very stately appearance: it is generally tall and big, with a wide branching and comparatively large crown of deep green glossy leaves. It is quite common in the south-west of this State, and is found as far north as Mogumber. It extends eastwards as far as Clackline, Pingelly, Toolibin and Guowangerup. It, therefore, occupies a very considerable part of our State. The soil it favours is of the lighter type, usually sandy loam. On the drier sand heath the main trees are quite small, and they are often left in paddocks for shade for stock as well as for ornamental purposes. In the moister parts of our State, however, particularly in the South-West the marri grows freely in company with jarrah and karri, and often reaches a height of 100 feet or more.

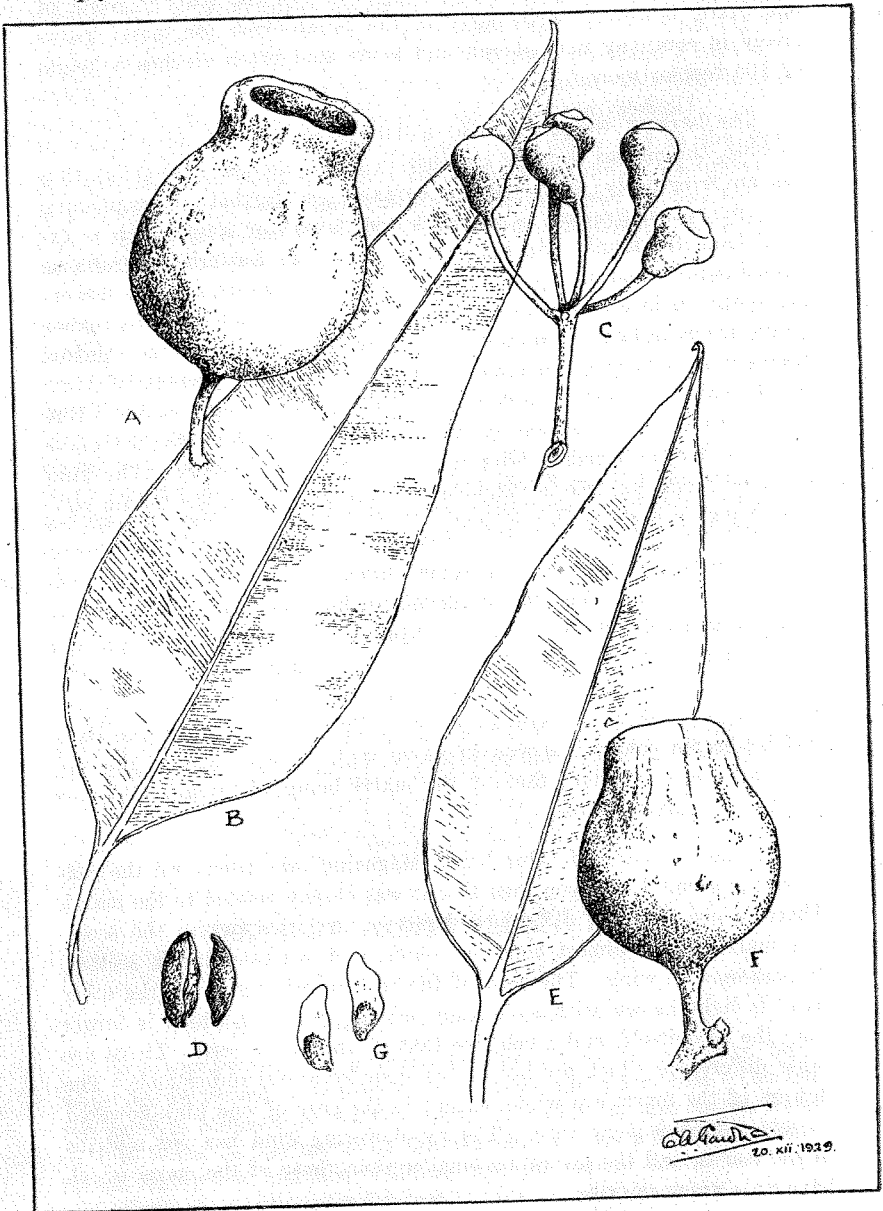
The bark of the marri is of a dark reddish tint, and is short in its fibre, the masses clinging together in little patches. The trunk thus has an irregularly furrowed appearance; a further distinguishing character when present, is the dark red "gum" or kino which is exuded from the trunk. Such trees are known in Eastern Australia as "bloodwoods," and all are members of the *Corymbosae*, i.e., the flowers are borne in large bunches instead of in simple umbels. The timber of the marri is light coloured, and is very strong and durable. Unfortunately it is very often seamed with gum-veins or pockets of kino, which make the tree useless for timber in the ordinary sense. But small articles such as spokes of wheels, handles for tools, etc., are made from the timber which is said to be as strong as hickory. The kino obtained from this tree is valuable as a tanning agent, the tannin content being as high as 68 per cent.

Occasionally people find some difficulty in distinguishing the trunk of a jarrah from that of the marri, but the two are very different. Jarrah belongs to the stringy bark class; the bark is tough and fibrous, and comes away in long strips. The marri has a friable bark, which is pulled off in short pieces. The bark of the young marri tree may be of a light yellowish-grey, but with age it assumes the dark reddish-brown colour that you know so well. The crowns of the two trees are very different, that of the marri being distinguished by its deep glossy green leaves.

In the last issue of "Our Rural Magazine" we discussed the red-flowering gum. I told you then that it was closely related to the marri. There is one constant difference, however, and this lies in the seeds. The marri seed is almost black in colour, and is triangular in section. It possesses no wing. The seed of the red-flowering gum on the other hand is light brown with a delicate pale brown wing which is larger than the seed itself, and much like that of the hakea seed. There are other differences which are not of the same botanical importance. The flowers of the marri are white, except in the case of one pink-flowered variety, which is very rare. The red-flowering gum has red midribs to the leaves, and the leaves are smaller than those of the marri which have pale green midribs.

The accompanying plate shows you the two species. A, is a marri fruit with its typical "neck"; B is a leaf; C, part of the inflorescence showing the pear-shaped buds and disc-like opercula or bud-caps; and D shows the size of the black wingless seed. E is the leaf of the red-flowering gum; F, the fruit, which is characteristically without a distinct neck; and G shows the winged seeds.

Notice the comparative width of the leaves and their parallel venation (nervings); notice also the heavy fruits of both species and their deeply sunk capsules.



Marri and Red-Flowering Gum.