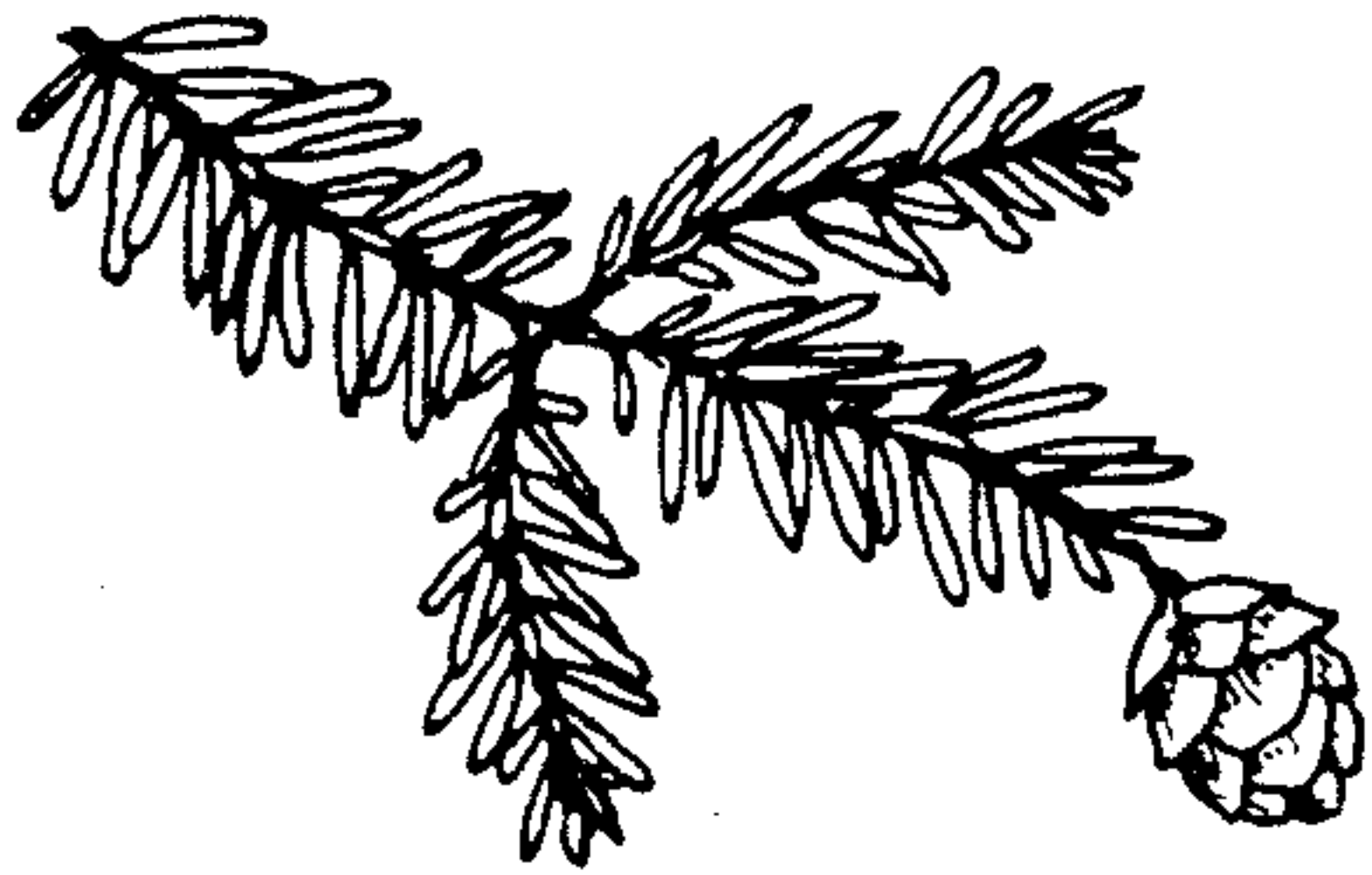


LOOK AGAIN !

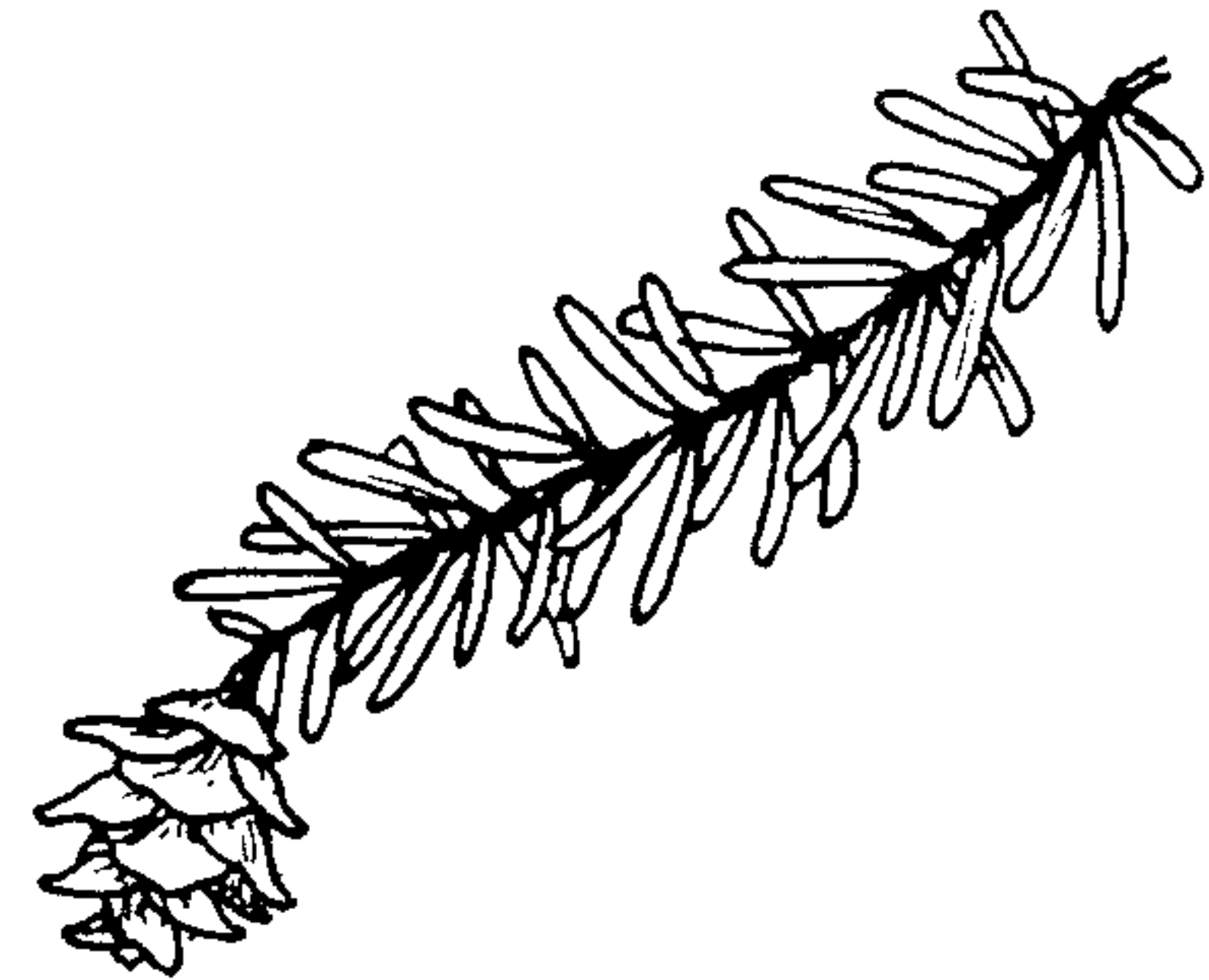
To most of us a hemlock is a hemlock, and if we don't push it too far we are correct. At least we learned long ago that the tea that did Socrates in was not made from the familiar evergreen tree but from a very different plant belonging to the Parsley Family--Poison Hemlock, or Conium maculatum.



T. CANADENSIS

It is, in fact, possible to brew a perfectly harmless tea from the needles of a hemlock tree, and although it is claimed to have a high Vitamin C content it can hardly be recommended for pure enjoyment unless one happens to like the taste of Christmas trees.

Actually, there are more than a dozen species of Tsuga, or true Hemlock (unlike most generic names, which are derived from Greek or Latin, this one is Japanese). Of the two in our area, Eastern Hemlock (T. canadensis) is by far the more widespread, extending all the way into southern Canada. It is the one best known to us, a graceful, bluish-green tree with feathery, softly drooping branches. The individual needles are flat, and although they are attached spirally to the twigs they are twisted at the base so that they extend outward in two opposite ranks, except for a few that lie upside-down along the top. The cones of Eastern Hemlock have thin woody scales and are quite small, seldom exceeding three-quarters of an inch in length.



T. CAROLINIANA

Confined to the mountains of North Carolina and adjacent states, and nowhere abundant, is the Carolina Hemlock (T. caroliniana). It is a brighter green in color, and the needles, which are longer than those of Eastern Hemlock, project from the twig in all directions instead of lying in flat sprays. The cones are an inch or more long, with scales that spread widely at maturity.

Dick Smith