PRÆPARATIONES SIMPLICIORES.

THE MORE SIMPLE PREPARATIONS.

QUORUNDAM IN AQUA NON SOLUBILIUM PRÆPARATIO.

THE PREPARATION OF SOME SUBSTANCES NOT SOLUBLE IN WATER.

BEAT theſe ſubſtances firſt in a mortar to a powder; then, pouring on a little water, levigate it upon a hard and poliſhed, but not calcareous, ſtone, that it may be made as fine as poſſible. Dry this powder upon blotting-paper laid on chalk, and ſet it in a warm, or at leaſt dry, place, for ſome days.

In

In this manner are to be prepared

AMBER,
ANTIMONY,
CALAMINE,
CHALK,
CORAL,
OISTER-SHELLS, firſt cleanſed from their impurities.
TUTTY.

CRABS CLAWS, firſt broken into ſmall pieces, muſt be waſhed with boiling water before they are levigated.

VERDEGRIS muſt be prepared in the ſame manner.

REMARK.

Calamine is roaſted, or calcined, in order that it may be more eaſily reducible to a very fine powder; and, the ſhops being uſually ſupplied with it in this calcined ſtate, the College have ſo directed it in the Materia Medica. See Zinc. Where Calamine cannot be procured already calcined, this ore of Zinc is to be thrice heated to a

ſtrong red heat, and as often quenched in water. Ed. D. 1756.

A direction was given in the former Diſpenſatory to take particular care that *Antimony*, *Calamine*, and *Tutty*, be reduced to the moſt ſubtile powder poſſible. The ſenſibility of the parts, to which Calamine and Tutty are often applied, requires them, as Dr. Lewis has obſerved, to be perfectly freed from any groſs irritating particles; and Antimony, when not thoroughly comminuted, may not only, by its needle-like Spicula, wound the ſtomach, but paſs off without any other ſenſible effect than an increaſe of the groſſer evacuations; whilſt, if reduced to the utmoſt fineneſs, it becomes a medicine of conſiderable efficacy.

ADIPIS SUILLÆ SEVIQUE OVILLI PRÆPARATIO.

THE PREPARATION OF HOG'S LARD AND MUTTON-SUET.

Cut them into pieces, and melt them with a ſlow fire; then ſeparate them from the membranes by ſtraining.

AM-

AMMONIACI PURIFICATIO.

THE PURIFICATION OF AMMONIACUM.

Boil Gum Ammoniacum, if it appears impure, in water till it ſoftens, and preſs it through an hempen cloth; then ſet it by, that the reſinous part may ſubſide. Evaporate the water; and, towards the end of the inſpiſſation, reſtore the reſinous part, and mix it with the gummy.

In the ſame manner are purified Aſa Fœtida and ſuch like Gum-reſins.

You may alſo purify any gum, which melts eaſily, ſuch as Galbanum, by putting it into an ox-bladder, and holding it in boiling water till it is ſo ſoft that it can be ſeparated from its impurities by preſſing through a hempen cloth.

REMARK.

In the ſtraining of all the Gums, care ſhould be taken that the heat be neither too great nor too long continued; otherwiſe a conſiderable portion of their more active volatile matter will be loſt,

loſt, — an inconvenience which cannot, by any care, be wholly avoided. Hence the purer tears, *unſtrained*, are preferred, for internal uſe, to the ſtrained gums, by the faculty of Paris. L.

As an additional reaſon for this preference, we may add, that ſome of the gum-reſins, purified in the common way, by ſolution in water, expreſſion, and evaporation, are not ſo eaſily ſoluble in aqueous menſtrua after, as before, ſuch depuration.

CORNU CERVI USTIO.

THE BURNING OF HARTSHORN.

Burn pieces of Hartſhorn till they are perfectly white; then rub them to a very fine powder.

REMARK.

The pieces of Horn, generally employed in this operation, are thoſe left after diſtillation. L. Diſp. 1746.

In the burning of Hartſhorn, a ſtrong fire and the free admiſſion of air are neceſſary. The potter's furnace was formerly directed for the ſake of convenience, but any common furnace, or ſtove, will do. If ſome lighted charcoal be ſpread

on

on the bottom of the grate, and above this the pieces of the Horns are laid, they will be burnt to whiteneſs, ſtill retaining their original form. L.

Burnt Hartſhorn is not now conſidered as a pure earth, having been found to be a compound of calcareous earth and phoſphoric acid. It is the weakeſt of the animal abſorbents, or ſoluble in acids with moſt difficulty; but, whether it be of equal or ſuperior uſe, in Diarrhœas, to more powerful abſorbents, muſt be left to obſervation.

HERBARUM ET FLORUM EXSICCATIO.

THE DRYING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS.

Spread them lightly, and dry them with a gentle Heat.

REMARK.

Both the colour and virtues of Herbs are preſerved in greateſt perfection when they are dried *haſtily* by an heat of common fire as great as that which the ſun can impart; an inſtance of which we have in the drying of tea by the Chineſe. Quick drying is more particularly proper for flowers. Saffron is a part of a flower, dried on paper, on a kind

kind of kiln, with an heat ſufficient to make it ſweat, taking care only not to endanger its ſcorching. L.

MELLIS DESPUMATIO.

THE DESPUMATION, OR CLARIFYING, OF HONEY.

Melt the Honey in a water-bath, and take off the ſcum.

MILLEPEDÆ PRÆPARATIO.

PREPARATION OF THE WOOD-LOUSE.

Suſpend the Wood-lice, incloſed in a coarſe hempen cloth, in a cloſe veſſel, over hot proof ſpirit, that, being killed by the vapour, they may be rendered friable.

PULPARUM EXTRACTIO.

THE EXTRACTION OF PULPS.

Set pulpy fruits, if they are unripe or ripe, and dry, in a moiſt place, that they may ſoften; then preſs the pulps through a hair-ſieve; afterwards boil them with a gentle

gentle fire, frequently ſtirring them until they are of a proper thickneſs.

Alſo take the pulp of Caſſia of the cane, from the pod, and boil it to a due thickneſs.

Preſs out the pulps of ripe and freſh fruits through a ſieve, without any boiling.

REMARK.

The manner of obtaining the Pulp of Caſſia from the Pod is here left to the operator. The former Diſpenſatory directed it to be boiled out of the bruiſed pod; by which method the pulp is not obtainable perfectly pure; the ſeeds parting with their mucilage, though nothing ſhould be communicated by the pod. The pulp is obtained in the greateſt purity, if the quantity be not large, by ſlitting the pods lengthwiſe, puſhing out the cells and ſeeds with the fingers, and waſhing the pulp from them.

The quantity extracted at a time ought not, as Lewis has obſerved, to be great, as it is apt to turn ſour by long keeping.

SCIL-

SCILLÆ EXSICCATIO.

THE DRYING OF SQUILL.

Cut the Squill tranſverſely, after the outer ſkin has been taken off, into thin ſlices, and dry it with a gentle heat.

REMARK.

A proof of the Squill being properly dried is its retaining, though friable, its original bitterneſs and acrimony.

By drying, Lewis ſays, the root loſes four-fifths of its original weight; and that the parts which exhale are merely watery: hence four grains of the dry root are equivalent to a ſcruple of the freſh.

It is given as an expectorant, and diuretic, to adults, in doſes of a few grains: in ſomewhat larger ones it proves emetic.

SPONGIÆ USTIO.

THE BURNING OF SPONGE.

Beat the Sponge, after cutting it in pieces; and, when ſeparated from its gritty matter,

matter, burn it in a close iron vessel, untill it becomes black and friable: afterwards rub it to a very fine powder.

REMARK.

The gritty matter, compared with the weight of the Sponge when prepared, is sometimes considerable.

If the quantity of Sponge put into the vessel at once be large, the outside will be sufficiently burnt before the inside is affected, and the volatile salt of the former will in part escape before that in the latter is begun to be formed. To avoid this inconvenience, the Sponge may be kept continually stirring in such a machine as is used for the roasting of coffee.

Sponge, on distillation with a stronger heat, yields a volatile salt in its proper form; and, even in this preparation, the salt is so far extricated, that, if the burnt Sponge be ground in a brass mortar, it corrodes the metal, so as to contract a disagreeable taint, and sometimes an emetic quality. L.

It should, therefore, as directed in the former Dispensatory, be powdered in a mortar of glass or stone. Of this last sort, the mortars of Mr. WEDGE-

WEDGEWOOD's manufacture are by far the moſt preferable.

Burnt Sponge is given in doſes of a ſcruple, or more, in ſcrophulous complaints.

STYRACIS PURIFICATIO.

THE PURIFICATION OF STORAX.

Diſſolve the Storax in rectified Spirit of Wine, and ſtrain the ſolution: afterwards reduce it to a proper thickneſs with a gentle heat.

REMARK.

Storax totally diſſolves in ſpirit of wine, ſo as to paſs through the filtre, the impurities alone being left. L.

The College have left to the operator the mode of recovering it, in a ſolid form, from its ſolution, either by gently diſtilling off the ſpirit, (which Lewis ſays will elevate very little of its flavour,) or waſting it by evaporation.

CON-

CONSERVÆ.

CONSERVES.

Conserve of Wood Sorrel, Sea Wormwood, The Red Rose, and of The outer Rind of the Seville Orange.

PLUCK the leaves from the ſtalks, the unblown petals from the cups, taking off the heels. Take off the outer rind of the oranges with a grater; then beat each of them with a wooden peſtle in a marble mortar, firſt by themſelves, afterwards with three times their weight of double-refined ſugar, until they are mixed.