

PRÆPARATA EX  
HYDRARGYRO.

PREPARATIONS OF QUICK-  
SILVER.

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HYDRARGYRUS PURIFICATUS.

PURIFIED QUICKSILVER.

**T**AKE of Quicksilver,  
Filings of Iron, of each four  
pounds.

Rub them together, and distill from an  
iron vessel.

R E M A R K.

If a retort is made use of, the neck should be  
considerably inclined downwards, and the re-  
ceiver be filled, almost to the neck of the retort,  
with

with cold water, lest the heated Quicksilver, falling on the bottom, should crack the glass, and the fire raised no higher than is sufficient to elevate the Quicksilver. L.

## HYDRARGYRUS ACETATUS.

### ACETATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver one pound.

Diluted nitrous Acid two pounds.

Water of Kali as much as is sufficient.

Mix the Quicksilver, with the acid, in a glass vessel, and dissolve it in a sand-bath; then drop in by degrees the water of Kali, that the Calx of Quicksilver may be precipitated; wash this Calx with plenty of distilled water, and dry it with a gentle heat. These things being done,

Take of the Calx of Quicksilver, just now described, one pound.

Acetous Acid as much as is necessary to dissolve the Calx.

Mix

Mix them in a glass vessel; and, the solution being completed, strain it through paper; then evaporate it till a pellicle appears, and set it aside to crystallize.

Keep these crystals in a vessel close stopt.

## R E M A R K.

This is said to form the basis of *Keyser's* pills, and given, in venereal cases, in doses of a few grains.

## HYDRARGYRUS CALCINATUS.

## CALCINED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver one pound.

Expose the Quicksilver, in a flat-bottomed glass cucurbit, to an heat of about 600 degrees in a sand-bath, till it becomes a red powder.

## HYDRARGYRUS CUM CRETA.

## QUICKSILVER WITH CHALK.

Take of purified Quicksilver, by weight, three ounces.

K

Powdered

Powdered Chalk, by weight, five  
ounces.

Rub them together until the globules  
disappear.

## R E M A R K.

This medicine, formerly called *Mercurius Al-  
califatus*, is said, by Cheyne, Huxham, and o-  
thers, to be, when properly prepared, an useful  
alterative in venereal cases and obstructions of  
the viscera; in doses, to adults, from ten grains  
to a scruple or half a dram. It is often joined  
with purgatives to prevent its producing a ptya-  
lism.

## HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS.

## MURIATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver,

Vitriolic Acid, of each two  
pounds.

Dried Sea-salt three pounds and  
an half.

Mix the Quicksilver, with the Acid, in a  
glass vessel, and boil in a sand-heat untill  
the

the matter is dried. Mix the matter, when cold, with the Sea-salt, in a glass vessel; then sublime in a glass cucurbit, with an heat gradually raised. Lastly, let the sublimed matter be separated from the Scorixæ.

## R E M A R K.

This medicine, called in the former Disp. *Mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, is seldom prepared by our apothecaries, or, perhaps, chymists, the operator at Apothecaries-hall excepted; the greatest part of what is used in this country being imported from Holland or other places abroad. This is the more to be lamented, as the foreign sublimate is suspected to be adulterated with arsenic, although some deny the possibility of arsenic and sublimate uniting into a crystalline cake,—the form in which this preparation is brought to us. Lewis, though he could not discover any such mixture, denies not the possibility of its being so united by some peculiar management, and gives a process for its detection. It is apprehended this sophistication may be detected with less trouble, if some of the suspected sublimate be thrown on burning coals, by a smell of garlic which will arise from it.

The operator should be careful to avoid the pernicious fumes, which arise on mixing the vitriolic Acid with the Quicksilver, and to choose for the sublimation a cucurbit, of which the ingredients will occupy only one third. In the process, the vitriolic Acid, after having corroded the Quicksilver to a white calx, and to this the Sea-salt has been added, quits the Salt to unite itself with the Natron, which is the basis of Sea-salt. The muriatic Acid, thereby set free, unites with the Quicksilver more readily when assisted by the increasing heat, and sublimes with it in a white crystalline mass, adhering to the upper part of the cucurbit.

This preparation is a very strong active poison, —yet the Translator took it repeatedly as an emetic fifty years ago : and, as an alterative, in venereal cases, it has been used in very small doses more than a century ; but its use was not generally known till *Van Swieten*, about the middle of this, recommended it to the world.

### CALOMELAS.

#### CALOMEL.

Take of muriated Quicksilver one pound.

Purified

Purified Quickfilver, by weight,  
nine ounces.

Rub them together till the globules disappear, and sublime; then rub all the matter again, and sublime. In the same manner repeat the sublimation four times. Afterwards rub the matter into the finest powder, and wash it by pouring on boiling distilled water.

## R E M A R K.

It is of the utmost consequence that the ingredients be perfectly united before the sublimation is begun. The person, who rubs the sublimate with the Quicksilver, should cover his mouth and nostrils, as is common in the powdering Cantharides, &c. it being difficult to prevent the lighter particles of the sublimate from affecting the mouth and eyes.

Lewis recommends, as a precaution, to sprinkle the sublimate with a little rectified spirit during the triture; which, he says, will not impede the union of the ingredients, or prejudice the sublimation: but that, if this be done, it is better not at first to cover the subliming vessel with a cap of  
K 3 paper,

paper, as is usual, but to defer it till the mixture begins to sublime,—that the spirit may escape.

The marks of the sublimate being perfectly dulcified are its being insipid, and not soluble by long boiling in *distilled* water. If the water has taken up any part of it, on dropping water of Kali, or of Ammonia, into the decoction, it will grow turbid; if not, it will continue limpid.

Calomel is in common use as an alterative in the Lues Venerea, in doses from one grain to five; sometimes joined with laxatives to prevent a ptyalism.

## HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS MITIS.

### MILD MURIATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver,

Diluted nitrous Acid, of each  
half a pound.

Mix in a glass vessel, and set it aside untill the Quicksilver is dissolved. Let them boil, that the salt may be dissolved. Pour out the boiling liquor into a glass vessel, into  
which



which another boiling liquor has been put before, consisting of,

Sea-salt, by weight, four ounces.

Distilled Water eight pints.

After a white powder has subsided to the bottom of the vessel, let the liquor swimming at the top be poured out, and the remaining powder be washed, till it becomes insipid, with frequent affusions of hot water; then dried on blotting paper with a gentle heat.

## R E M A R K.

This is the *Mercurius dulcis præcipitatus* of the *Pharm. Lond.* fol. 1721, p. 145, — adopted by the Edinburgh, 1744, under the name of *Merc. præcip. albus*, — and, after that, by the *Swedish Dispensatory*, under the name of *Mercurius dulcis*. As it has been supposed by many to be a new invention of Mr. *Scheele*, and been recommended as an easy and cheap substitute for Calomel, it has grown pretty much into use; but the testimonies, before the Committee, of its good effects not being consonant with each other, the College chose not to receive it instead of a medicine of such established character as Calomel, and introduced this for future trial. It is given in doses similar to those of Calomel.

## HYDRARGYRUS NITRATUS RUBER.

### RED NITRATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quickfilver,  
Nitrous Acid, of each one pound.  
Muriatic Acid, one dram by  
weight.

Mix in a glafs vessel, and dissolve the Quickfilver in a sand-bath; then raise the fire, untill the matter is formed into red crystals.

#### R E M A R K.

This preparation is the *Mercurius corrosivus ruber* of the former Dispensatory. Its sparkling appearance, which is considered as a test of its genuineness and strength, is presently lost if the Calx is not removed from the fire soon after it has acquired it. If adulteration with minium is suspected, it is discovered by the duller hue, but more certainly by burning some of it in a spoon; when the pure will deflagrate entirely, the adulterated will leave the minium or other impurities behind.

It

It is chiefly used by the Surgeons, as a cathartic, in applications to foul ulcers, or to their callos edges, and to corrode what is called fungous flesh,

**CALX HYDRARGYRI ALBA,**

WHITE CALX OF QUICKSILVER.

Take of muriated Quicksilver,

Sal ammoniac,

Water of Kali, of each half a pound.

Dissolve first the Sal ammoniac, afterward the muriated Quicksilver in distilled water, and add the water of Kali. Wash the precipitated powder untill it becomes insipid,

R E M A R K.

This is the *Mercurius præcipitatus albus* of the former Dispensatory, and generally used in liniments externally; if adulterated with Cérusse, this is left upon burning some of it, as mentioned in the preceding remark.

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## HYDRARGYRUS CUM SULPHURE.

### QUICKSILVER WITH SULPHUR.

Take of purified Quicksilver,  
Flowers of Sulphur, of each one  
pound.

Rub them together untill the globules  
disappear.

## HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS RUBER.

### RED SULPHURATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of Quicksilver purified forty ounces,  
Sulphur eight ounces, both by  
weight.

Mix the Quicksilver with the melted Sulphur; and, if the mixture takes fire, extinguish it by covering the vessel; afterwards reduce the mass to powder, and sublime it.

REMARK.

yd medt REMARK.

This preparation was, in the last Dispensatory, called *Cinnabaris factitia*. The mixture of the Quicksilver and Sulphur, here directed, is very apt to take fire, and a considerable explosion frequently happens (especially if the process is too hastily conducted) as soon as it grows consistent, when the pot, or vessel, must be immediately close-covered with a wooden cover. In the sublimation, also, care must be taken to prevent the matter blocking up the neck of the bolt-head. By introducing at times an iron wire, somewhat heated, into its neck, the operator may be assured when the danger of this is approaching, and prevent mischief by cautiously raising the vessel higher from the fire. L. This medicine is employed chiefly in fumigations, sometimes to raise a ptyalism, but oftener for curing ulcers in those infected with the Lues Venerea.

## HYDRARGYRUS VITRIOLATUS.

### VITRIOLATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of Quicksilver, purified,

Vitriolic Acid, of each one pound,

Mix

Mix in a glass vessel, and heat them by degrees, untill they unite into a white mass, which is to be perfectly dried with a strong fire. This matter, on the affusion of a great deal of hot distilled water, immediately becomes yellow, and falls to powder. Rub the powder carefully with this water in a glass mortar. After the powder has subsided, pour off the water; and, adding more distilled water several times, wash the matter till it becomes insipid.

## R E M A R K.

In this process, the pernicious fumes are to be avoided. The product is the *Mercurius emeticus flavus* of the former Dispensatory, which, in doses to adults of five or six grains, is an emetic acting very briskly, as the Translator has himself sensibly felt; and, if he is not deceived, evacuating more copiously than many of the safer emetics;—but it certainly ought not to be employed without caution and attention. As an alterative, it has been employed, in small doses, like other preparations of Quicksilver, alone, or in conjunction with other remedies, in venereal as well as other complaints,—not unsuccessfully.

PRÆPARATA

PRÆPARATA E  
PLUMBO.

PREPARATIONS OF LEAD.

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CERUSSA ACETATA.

ACETATED CERUSSE.

TAKE of Cerusse one pound.

Distilled Vinegar one gallon  
and an half.

Boil the Cerusse with the vinegar untill the vinegar is saturated; then filter through paper; and, after proper evaporation, set it aside to crystallize.

R E M A R K.

Cerusse being liable to adulteration with whiting, or calcareous earth, that species of it, called *flake lead*, Lewis says, is to be preferred. This preparation was called in the former Dispensatory *Sacch. Saturni*, and there directed to be made in a leaden vessel. The Cerusse should be finely powdered before the vinegar is poured to it, and stirred now and then during the boiling.

Its use is chiefly external. Internally employed, by the cautious and skilful, it is a most useful medicine;—by the ignorant, a dangerous poison.

Cholics,