## FOURTH DIVISION.—OF MECHANICAL REMEDIES.

The last subdivision of the classification includes those classes of remedies, the operation of which is merely mechanical. Under this I have placed Anthelmintics, Demulcents, Diluents, and Emollients. They are classes of comparatively little importance.

## CHAP. XX.

### OF ANTHELMINTICS.

Anthelmintics are remedies which expel worms from the intestinal canal. They have been supposed to produce this effect by various modes of operation, principally, however, mechanical.

Some, which are in coarse rough particles, as iron or tin-filings, or consist of sharp spiculæ, as the down of the dolichos pruriens, are supposed, by the mechanical action of these, to dislodge from the mucus of the intestines the worms which are evacuated.

Other substances ranked as anthelmintics seem to have no other property than bitterness. By this quality they

have been supposed to prove noxious to these animals: it has also been imagined, that these, so far as they prove useful, do so by restoring the tone of the digestive organs; the production of worms being supposed to proceed from debility of these organs, in consequence of which, either the food is not properly assimilated, or the secreted fluids poured into the intestines are not properly prepared.

Lastly, other remedies of this class apparently operate by their cathartic power. Those cathartics which discharge the mucus of the intestines, as gamboge, scammony, or calomel, are supposed more peculiarly to have this effect: and perhaps it is this sub-division of anthelmintics that have most efficacy. Some anthelmintics, it is observed by Dr Hamilton, "have been considered as specific poison to the insect, and others are conceived to destroy it by mechanical triture. Most of them have had their partisans for the day, and have passed in succession through the ordeal of experience into oblivion. The utility of such anthelmintics as have been found to be most beneficial, has, in my opinion, been in proportion to the purgative powers which they possessed."

After a course of those anthelmintics, which are not directly cathartic, it is usual to give a full dose of a purgative, which is even repeated two or three times, and to this a considerable share of the effect, when worms are evacuated, is probably to be ascribed. Calomel, with jalap, gamboge, or scammony, is the cathartic usually employed.

# ANTHELMINTICS.

DOLICHOS PRURIENS.
FERRI LIMATURA.
STANNUM PULVERATUM.
OLEA EUROPÆA.
ARTEMISIA SANTONICA.
SPIGELIA MARILANDICA.
POLYPODIUM FILIX MAS.
TANACETUM VULGARE.
GEOFFRÆA INERMIS.
CAMBOGIA GUTTA.
SUB-MURIAS HYDRARGYRI MITIS.

DOLICHOS PRURIENS. Cowhage. *Diadelph. Decand. Papilionaceæ. Pubes leguminis rigida. East and West Indies.*

THE down which covers the outer surface of the pods of this plant, consists of very sharp spiculæ, and is the part used as an anthelmintic. It is made into an electuary, with syrup or molasses, of which two tea-spoonfuls

are given to an adult, and repeated two or three times, a strong cathartic being afterwards exhibited. Its action is entirely mechanical. In the West India islands it is the common anthelmintic, and is described as being frequently successful. In this country it is more rarely used.

FERRUM. Iron.

THE filings of this metal have been given as an anthelmintic, in a dose of one or two drachms; and the sub-carbonate, or rust of iron, was highly recommended by Rush as a remedy against the tape worm, when taken to the extent of three or four drachms.

STANNUM. Tin.

TIN is reduced to a powder, consisting of small rounded particles, by heating it nearly to its melting point, and agitating it briskly. Either this powder, or what has been recommended in preference, the metal, in filings, is used as an anthelmintic, in a dose of one or two drachms, or even in a much larger quantity. It is taken repeatedly in the morning, and a cathartic is afterwards exhibited. Its effect, so far as it operates, has been supposed to be mechanical, dislodging the worm from the mucus of the intestines by the grittiness of its particles. It is not improbable, too, that it may act by generating hydrogen gas in the intestinal canal, which proves noxious to the animal; and its efficacy has been said to be increased by combination with sulphur, by which sulphuretted hydrogen gas will be evolved.

OLEA EUROPÆA. Olive Oil. Oleum Olivarum. *Diand. Monogyn. Sepiariæ. Oleum expressum. South of Europe.*

OLIVE Oil, or any other expressed oil, taken in the morning to the extent of half-a-pound, or as much as the stomach can bear, has been said to prove anthelmintic, but in the state of diffusion and mixture in which it must act on worms in the intestines, it can scarcely be expected to have any certain power.

ARTEMISIA SANTONICA. Wormseed. *Syngen. Polygam. superfl. Compositæ. Semen. Persia.*

THE seeds of this plant have a faint disagreeable smell, and a very bitter taste. They are in common use as an anthelmintic, and probably operate merely as a bitter; the dose is half-a-drachm, or a drachm of the powder to an adult. This, after being continued for some time, is followed by a dose of a strong cathartic.

SPIGELIA MARILANDICA. Indian Pink. *Pentand. Monogyn. Stellatæ. Radix. North America.*

THE root and stalks of this plant are used in medicine, on the supposition of their anthelmintic power; they have a bitter taste; in a large dose prove purgative, and also sometimes narcotic. They are usually adminstered in the form of the watery infusion; in the quantity of half-a-drachm, or even to the extent of two or three drachms to an adult. Its operation as a narcotic has been said sometimes to be produced; and to prevent this, it has been recommended to be given rather in large than in small doses, as

its cathartic operation, by which its narcotic power is obviated, is thus obtained. In its dried state, however, in which it is employed in this country, no unpleasant symptom follows from its administration.

POLYPODIUM FILIX MAS. Male Fern. *Cryptogamia. Filices. Radix. Indigenous.*

THE root of this plant was once highly celebrated as a remedy against the tape worm; two or three drachms of the powder of it being taken in the morning, and a strong cathartic of jalap or gamboge given soon after it. The efficacy of the prescription probably depended entirely on the cathartic.

TANACETUM VULGARE. Tansy. *Syngen. Polyg. superf. Compositæ. Folia et flores. Indigenous.*

THE leaves and flowers of this plant have a strong bitter taste, with some aromatic quality, which resides in an essential oil. They have been recommended as anthelmintic, and especially as capable of expelling the lumbrici, and are sometimes used as a popular remedy. The dose, in powder, is from one scruple to one drachm.

GEOFFRÆA INERMIS. Cabbage-Bark tree. *Diadelph. Decand. Papilionac. Cortex. Jamaica.*

THE bark of this tree has an unpleasant smell, with a sweetish taste. It is used as an anthelmintic, and has been considered as one of considerable power, especially in expelling the lumbrici. It is usually given under the

form of decoction, an ounce being boiled in two pounds of water, to one pound, and from one to two ounces of this being given as a dose to an adult. It usually operates as a cathartic, and in an over-dose is liable to occasion sickness and vomiting. The same symptoms are said to be induced by the incautious drinking of cold water during its operation. When they occur from either cause, they are relieved by a dose of castor oil.

*Offic. Prep.*—Decoct. Geoffr. Inerm. *Ed.*

CAMBOGIA. Gamboge. (Page 360.)

GAMBOGE has been celebrated as a remedy against the tape-worm, and by its powerful cathartic operation is sometimes successful in expelling it. It is given in a dose from 5 to 20 grains by itself, or combined with two parts of acidulous tartrate of potash. It is frequently also given as a cathartic after other anthelmintics.

MURIAS HYDRARGYRI MITIS. Mild Muriate of Mercury. Calomel.

SEVERAL of the preparations of mercury have been employed as anthelmintics. Calomel is entitled to the preference, not only from its direct action as a mercurial, but also on account of its action on the intestinal canal. It is given by itself, in a dose of 10 or 12 grains to an adult, or in a smaller quantity, combined with jalap or rhubarb. It is also generally the basis of the cathartic usually administered after other anthelmintics have been continued for some time.

## CHAP. XXI.

### OF DEMULCENTS.

DEMULCENTS are defined, "Medicines suited to obviate and prevent the action of acrid and stimulant matters; and that, not by correcting or changing their acrimony, but by involving it in a mild and viscid matter, which prevents it from acting upon the sensible parts of the body," or by covering the surface to which they may be applied. Their action has been supposed to be exemplified in catarrh, where the irritation at the top of the trachea, occasioning coughing, is removed by mucilaginous substances; or in gonorrhœa, where the sense of heat and pain from the application of the stimulus of urine to the inflamed surface of the urethra is prevented by similar means.

Where these substances are directly applied to the part, it may be understood how this operation is obtained from them. But where they are received by the medium of the stomach into the circulating system, it has been supposed that they can have no such effect. They must be changed by the process of digestion, and lose that viscidity by which only they operate, so that they cannot afterwards be separated by any secretion in their original form. Hence their utility in gonorrhœa and similar affections has been altogether denied.

It is not clear, however, that such a conclusion is just. It is sufficiently certain, that many substances, which undergo the process of digestion, are afterwards separated in their entire state from the blood, by particular secreting organs. There is no gland which has this power more particularly than the kidneys; substances received into the stomach and digested, afterwards passing off in the urine with all their peculiar properties. Saccharine matter for example, there is reason to believe, can be separated in this manner; and it is equally probable, that mucilaginous or oily substances, which form the principal demulcents, are capable of such a separation. There can be no doubt, however, but that a great share of the relief demulcents afford in irritation, or inflammation of the urinary passages, is owing to the large quantity of water in which they are diffused, by which the urine is diluted, and rendered less stimulating. Perhaps the relief is to be ascribed solely to this dilution: since no alteration is perceived in the quality of the urine, from the use of these substances. And, in general, we may consider demulcents as being merely substances less stimulating than the fluids usually applied to the parts.

The diseases in which demulcents are used, are principally catarrh, diarrhœa, dysentery, calculus and gonorrhœa. They are evidently not medicines of any great power; they are only calculated to alleviate symptoms, and may be freely used in as large quantities as the stomach will receive them.

Demulcents may be arranged under the two divisions of Mucilages, and Expressed Oils.

## DEMULCENTS.

Mimosa nilotica.
Astragalus tragacantha.
Linum usitatissimum.
Althæa officinalis.
Malva sylvestris.
Glycyrrhiza glabra.
Smilax sarsaparilla.
Cycas circinalis.
Orchis mascula.
Maranta arundinacea.
Triticum hybernum.
Lichen icelandicus.
Cornu cervi.
Ichthyocolla.
Amygdalus communis.
Olea europæa.
Sevum ceti.
Cera.

ARABICUM GUMMI. Gum Arabic. Mimosa Nilotica. *Polygam. Monœc. Lomentaceæ. Africa.*

GUM is a proximate vegetable principle, which is obtained by exudation, more or less pure, from a number of plants. The gum Arabic of commerce is not exclusively the produce of one vegetable: that which is most pure, and used to be imported from Egypt, is from a species of mimosa. The London College admit, on the authority of Wildenow, a different genus, Acacia, as substituted for that of Mimosa; they refer to the species producing this gum by the name Acacia Vera, and name the gum itself Gummi Acaciæ, while the Edinburgh College name it Gummi Mimosæ Niloticæ. The purest gum of the shops is in small irregular pieces, white or yellowish, semi-pellucid, without taste or smell: there are other varieties coarser, of a yellow or red colour. All of them have the properties of gum; are insoluble in alkohol or oils, and soluble in water, forming a viscid solution named Mucilage.

Gum Arabic is in common use as a demulcent. In catarrh it is allowed to dissolve slowly in the mouth, and its mucilage is the basis of the mixtures usually employed to allay coughing. Sometimes, too, it is employed in tenesmus, strangury, and *ardor urinæ*. In Pharmacy, mucilage of gum Arabic is employed for a variety of purposes. It serves to suspend heavy powders in waters;

to diffuse oils, balsams and resins in water, and give tenacity to substances made into pills.

*Offic. Prep.*—Emuls. Gummi Mimosæ Nil. *Ph. Ed. Dub.*—Muc. Gum. Mim. Nil. *Ed. Lond. Dub.*—Troch. Gum. *Ed.*

ASTRAGALUS TRAGACANTHA. Tragacanth. *Diadelph. Decand. Papilionaceæ. Gummi. South of Europe, Asia.*

TRAGACANTH is obtained by exudation: the plant producing it, a native of Persia, is said to differ from the Astralagus Tragacantha of Linnæus; it is described by Olivier as a distinct species, under the name of Astragalus Verus; and this is admitted by the London College. Tragacanth is in small wrinkled pieces, semi-transparent and brittle, and has neither taste nor smell. It is regarded as a gum, yet it differs from the other pure gums in not being perfectly soluble in cold water: it is softened and diffused, but remains flocculent and turbid. When heat is applied, it communicates to the water a great degree of viscidity, but still the solution remains turbid. It is greatly superior to all the gums, in giving viscidity to water; its power in this respect being to that of gum Arabic as 1 to 24.

Tragacanth has virtues similar to gum Arabic. It is less employed, except in some pharmaceutical processes, in which, from its greater viscidity, it is preferred, as in making of troches.

*Offic. Prep.*—Mucil. Astrag. Trag. *Pharm. Ed. Dub.*—Pulv. Trag. C. *Lond.*

LINUM USITATISSIMUM. Flax. *Pentand. Pentagyn. Gruinales. Semen. Indigenous.*

THE seeds of this plant afford a strong mucilage by infusion or decoction in water, which has no unpleasant taste or smell. These preparations of it are, therefore, frequently used as demulcents in catarrh and gonorrhœa, in a dilute state, being rendered more grateful by the addition of a little sugar and lemon juice.

*Offic. Prep.*—Infus. Lini, *Ph. Lond.*

ALTHÆA OFFICINALIS. Althæa. Marsh-mallow. *Monadelph. Polyand. Columniferæ. Radix. Indigenous.*

ALL the parts of this plant yield a mucilage by infusion or decoction in water: the root does so most abundantly, and freed from its outer bark, is kept in the shops. Its mucilage is similar to that from lintseed, and is used for the same purposes. It is even preferable, as being more pure.

*Offic. Prep.*—Decoct. Alth. Off. *Ph. Ed.*—Syr. Alth. Off. *Ed. Lond.*

MALVA SYLVESTRIS. Common Mallow. *Monadelph. Polyand. Columniferæ. Folia. Indig.*

THE leaves of this plant afford a mucilage by infusion in water, weaker, however, than that from lintseed or althæa. The plant is therefore little used, and might be discarded.

*Offic. Prep.*—Decoct. Malv. Comp. *Ph. Lond.*

GLYCYRRHIZA GLABRA. Liquorice. *Diadelph. Decand. Papilionac. Radix. South of Europe.*

THE root of this plant has a sweet agreeable taste, with no flavour. This sweetness is extracted by water by infusion or decoction; and by evaporation a dark-coloured extract of the same sweet taste is obtained, consisting principally of saccharine and mucilaginous matter. Alkohol likewise extracts the sweetness of liquorice, with less of the mucilage.

Liquorice-root is employed as a demulcent, and on account of its sweet taste is frequently added to infusions of lintseed, or althæa. Its watery extract is also in common use as a demulcent in catarrh, being allowed to dissolve slowly in the mouth.

*Offic. Prep.* — Extr. Glycyrrh. Gl. *Ph. Ed. Dub.* — Troch. Glycyrrh. Troch. Glycyrrh. cum Opio, *Ed.*

SMILAX SARSAPARILLA. Sarsaparilla. *Diœcia Hexand. Sarmentaceæ. Radix. South America.*

THIS root is in long slender twigs, internally white, and covered with a brownish bark: it has scarcely any smell; its taste is mucilaginous, and slightly bitter. Water extracts its bitterness; by beating it with water, a portion of fecula is separated, white and insipid, in which the virtues of the root appear to reside. For pharmaceutic preparation it is split and cut into small pieces.

Sarsaparilla produces no sensible effect on the system,

and it can scarcely be regarded except as a demulcent, when given under its usual form of decoction. It has, however, been considered as a specific in the treatment of some venereal affections, particularly those of the bones or periosteum, and as a restorative in that state of debility which is the consequence of the disease protracted, or of the mercurial irritation. It has also been recommended in extensive ulceration, in cutaneous affections, and in chronic rheumatism. It is given in the form of decoction, and is very frequently joined with guaiac and mezereon, the pungency of which at least it covers.

*Offic. Prep.*—Dec. Smil. Sarsap. *Ph. Ed. Lond. Dub.* —Dec. Sarsap. Comp. *Lond. Dub.*—Extr. Sarsaparill. *Lond.*

CYCAS CIRCINALIS. Sago. *Cryptogamia. Filices. East Indies.*

SAGO is a fecula obtained from the pith or medullary part of the branches of the plant, by maceration in water. It is in small grains of a brownish colour, without taste or smell. Boiled in milk or water, it dissolves entirely; and this with sugar, and the addition frequently of a little wine, forms a nutritious jelly, prescribed in diarrhœa as a demulcent, and in convalescence as a nutritious article of diet, easy of digestion.

ORCHIS MASCULA. Salop. *Gynand. Diand. Orchideæ. Indigenous.*

THE root of this plant, by maceration in water and

beating, affords the fecula known by the name of Salop. Its qualities and virtues are similar to those of Sago.

MARANTA ARUNDINACEA. *Monand. Monogyn. Scitamineæ. South America.*

THE fecula which has been lately introduced under the name of Arrow-Root Powder, has been said to be the produce of this plant, though there is now generally substituted for it the fecula of some indigenous plants. It is used as a demulcent in diarrhœa and dysentery, and as a nutritious article of diet for convalescents. It forms a jelly by boiling with water or milk, and it is under this form that it is taken.

TRITICUM HYBERNUM. Wheat. *Triand. Digyn. Gramina. Fecula seminum. Amylum.*

STARCH, the fecula of wheat, obtained by beating the grains previously soaked in water, forms a gelatinous solution when boiled with water, which is used as a demulcent. It is sometimes given as an enema in tenesmus, and is the common vehicle for giving opium under that form.

*Offic. Prep.*—Mucilag. Amyli, *Ph. Ed. Lond. Dub.*

LICHEN ISLANDICUS. Iceland Liverwort. *Cryptogamia Algæ. Iceland.*

THE different lichens contain a kind of mucilaginous matter or fecula, which is extracted by boiling in water. The lichen islandicus consists principally of this kind of

matter, with a portion of extractive principle having a degree of bitterness. This bitterness is removed by maceration in cold water, and then by decoction with water a gelatinous solution is obtained. This is used as an article of diet in the countries of which this lichen is a native; and it has been introduced into medical practice as a demulcent, and a nutritious substance easy of digestion. The decoction has received a place in the London Pharmacopœia.

*Offic. Prep.*—Decoct. Lichenis, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

Cornu cervi rasura. Hartshorn Shavings. Cervus Elaphus. Cornu. *Mammalia. Pecora.*

Bone, and horn which is of similar composition, contain a considerable quantity of gelatin, along with phosphate of lime. The horns of the deer have been supposed to afford this in the purest state, and they have therefore been received into the Materia Medica. They are freed from their outer rough covering, and the internal white part is rasped down for use. The shavings afford, by decoction in water, a jelly, which, rendered grateful by sugar, and a little wine, is used in diarrhœa and dysentery as a demulcent, and in convalescence as a light nutritious article of diet.

Ichthyocolla. Isinglass. Acipenser Sturio. *Pisces. Chondropterygii.*

Isinglass is obtained from the skin and other parts of the sturgeon, as well as several other kinds of fish

caught in the northern seas. The internal skin is boiled in water; the strained decoction is inspissated; and the solid mass formed into convoluted pieces is the isinglass of the shops. It is nearly pure gelatin, is almost entirely soluble in water by boiling, forming a gelatinous solution, which has sometimes been employed as a demulcent.

AMYGDALUS COMMUNIS. *Icosandria. Monog. Pomaceæ. Fructus; Nucleus; Ol. Express. South of Europe.*

THE kernel of the fruit of the almond is farinaceous with a portion of expressed oil. This oil is obtained by expression from the seeds, or by decoction of them in water. It is very similar to the olive oil, but purer, and more free from any rancidity. In common with expressed oils, it has the properties of a demulcent; and diffused in water by the medium of mucilage, or a few drops of an alkaline solution, it is given in catarrh.

There is another mode in which this oil is given as a demulcent, more grateful, that of emulsion. The almonds are triturated with water; the oil is diffused in the water by the medium of the mucilage and fecula of the almond, and a milky-like liquor is formed, which is used as a pleasant demulcent and diluent, particularly to obviate strangury from the application of a blister.

*Offic. Prep.*—Emuls. Amygd. *Ph. Ed. Lond. Dub.* —Confect. Amygd. *Ph. Lond.*

OLEA EUROPÆA. Olive Oil. (Page 491.)

THE oil obtained from the fruit of the olive by expression, is of a light yellowish or greenish colour, without either taste or smell. It is the expressed oil which is most commonly used in medicine. It is employed as a demulcent in catarrh, and some other affections, diffused in water by the medium of mucilage, or by a very small quantity of one of the alkalis, and is thus taken in as large quantities as the stomach can bear; it may be doubted, however, whether with any advantage. Its application as an anthelmintic has been already noticed. Externally it is used as an emollient.

SEVUM CETI. Spermaceti. Physeter Macrocephalus. *Mammalia. Cetacea.*

THIS fatty matter is obtained from the head of the particular species of whale above stated. The cavity of the head contains a large quantity of an oily fluid, from which, on standing, a concrete substance separates. This, freed from the oil by expression, and purified by melting and boiling with a weak alkaline solution, is the common spermaceti. It is in white flakes, unctuous and friable, and has neither taste nor smell. Its chemical properties are the same as those of the expressed oils and fats, except that it does not easily unite with the alkalis, and that it is soluble to a certain extent in alkohol and ether. Its medicinal virtues are those of a mild demulcent, and as such it is given in catarrh and gonorrhœa, mixed with

sugar, or sometimes diffused in water by the medium of the yolk of an egg. It enters as an unctuous substance into the composition of ointments.

*Offic. Prep.*—Cerat. Cetacei, Unguent. Cetaceæ, *Ph. Lond.*

Cera. Wax.—This is a concrete substance of a particular nature, supposed to be collected from the antheræ of vegetables by the bee. The experiments of Huber appear to have proved, that it can be formed by this insect from changes produced on it by its saccharine food. Still it is to be regarded as a vegetable product. It exists in the fruit and flowers of many plants, and some, as the Myrica Cerifera, afford a substance perfectly analogous in large quantity. Wax, in its chemical properties, resembles most nearly the expressed oils, differing from them principally in solidity, and in combining less readily with the alkalis. It is of a yellow colour, but by bleaching can be rendered white.

Wax has been used as a demulcent in dysentery, being diffused in water by means of mucilage of gum Arabic, but it has no particular quality to recommend it. It is used in the composition of ointments and plasters, communicating to them consistence and tenacity.

*Offic. Prep.*—Emp. Ceræ, *Ph. Ed. Lond.*

## CHAP. XXII.

### OF DILUENTS.

Diluents have been defined, Substances which increase the fluidity of the blood, by augmenting the proportion of fluid in it. Watery liquors, it is obvious, will have this operation to a certain extent, and, strictly speaking, water can be regarded as the only proper diluent. But different mild substances are added to it to render it pleasant, and frequently to communicate to it a demulcent quality, diluents and demulcents being generally employed to answer the same indications.

Diluents are prescribed principally in acute inflammatory diseases, with the views of quenching thirst, and diminishing the stimulating quality of the blood. They are employed too to favour the operation of sweating, being given tepid; and sometimes to promote the action of diuretics, especially of those which are saline. And there are some chronic diseases in which diluents appear advantageous. Some mineral waters, celebrated for their efficacy, are found to be nothing but water uncommonly pure, such as the Malvern Water; and the advantage derived from these in scrofulous affections is probably to be attributed to mere dilution.

## CHAP. XXIII.

### OF EMOLLIENTS.

The class of Emollients, according to the definition given by Cullen, includes those medicines which diminish the force of cohesion in the particles of the solid matter of the human body, and thereby render them more lax and flexible. Their operation is evidently mechanical; they are insinuated into the matter of the solid fibre, and either diminish its density, or lessen the friction between its particles. Hence they are useful where the fibres are rigid, or where they are preternaturally extended, and therefore afford relief when topically applied to inflamed parts, to tumors distending the skin, or where the skin is dry and rigid. There may be included under the same class, those substances which, applied to the surface, by their smoothness and bland quality afford relief from any irritation.

Heat, conjoined with moisture, is the principal emollient. Warm water is of itself useful; but when applied, by the medium of some vegetable substances, as in the different fomentations and cataplasms, it is more advantageous as the heat is longer retained, and as it can be more conveniently applied. The emollient power

is little increased by such additions, though some have supposed that the mucilaginous vegetables have some efficacy of this kind.

The other emollients are the oils or unctuous substances: they are merely introduced by friction; and in distention of the animal fibre, as, for example, in dropsical swelling, they afford some relief. Any of the expressed oils or lard may be used for this purpose. Axungia Porcina, Hogs' Lard, is the only substance of this kind not hitherto noticed. It is the fat of the hog, freed from the membranous threads or cellular fibre with which it is intermingled. This is done by melting it with the addition of a little water to prevent the heat from rising too high: it collects on the surface of the water, and when cold, becomes concrete. It forms the common basis of ointments, which are applied as a dressing to inflamed parts. Such compositions too are formed from any of the expressed oils, melted with a due proportion of spermaceti or wax: they prove useful in a great measure by excluding the air, while, from their smoothness and softness, they excite no irritation. The thick and bland liquid formed by the combination of lime water with expressed oils, (Linimentum Aquæ Calcis), is another emollient composition, usually employed as a soothing application to burns, and proving useful by a similar operation.