
CHAP. II.**CONSERVE.—CONSERVES.**

CONSERVES are compositions of fresh vegetable matter with sugar. The form is designed to preserve such vegetables as lose their virtues by drying: to obviate the decomposition to which this matter is liable, three times its weight of refined sugar is in general necessary. The active matter of vegetables is, however, generally injured by keeping in this form; and, therefore, there is no conserve ordered in the Pharmacopœia of any powerful medicine, those which are inserted being merely recommended by their agreeable flavour, and being not used but as vehicles for the exhibition of more active remedies, under the form of bolus, pill, or electuary.

In the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia there are the following conserves.

Conserva exterioris recentis fructus CITRI AURANTII radula abrasa. Conserve of the outer rind of the Orange rasped by a grater.

Conserva Fructus ROSÆ CANINÆ maturi, a seminibus eorumque pube sollicite purgati. Conserve of the Fruit

of the Dog-hip, carefully freed from the seeds and included down.

Conserva Petalorum ROSÆ GALLICÆ nondum explicitorum. Conserve of the Unblown Petals of the Red Rose.

In the preparation of these, the vegetable matter is directed to be beat into a pulp, to which is to be added gradually, during the beating, three times its weight of refined sugar.

The first of them, the Conserve of Orange Peel, is so little used, that it is seldom to be found in the shops. The Conserve of Dog-hip is smooth and uniform in its consistence, and is therefore well adapted to the purpose to which it is applied, that of serving as a vehicle for active medicines, under the form of bolus or pill. The Conserve of the Petals of the Red Rose is supposed to retain their slight astringency, and at one time was celebrated as a remedy in hæmoptysis and phthisis. It is still a popular medicine in these diseases, being taken in the dose of an ounce in the morning, diffused in warm milk.

The London College have united the Conserves with the preparations named Electuaries, and have given them the common name of Confections. Of those which correspond with what have usually been denominated Conserves, they have retained the three which have a place in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia. The Dublin College admit only the Conserve of the Rhind of the Orange, and the Conserve of the Petals of the Red Rose.