

## CHAP. III.

## SUCCL.—JUICES.

**JUICES** are obtained from fresh vegetables by expression. They consist chiefly of the sap of the plant, mixed, however, more or less, with the proper juices; and according as these are in greater or less abundance, or easily expressed from their vessels, the juice will be more largely impregnated with them. It may hold dissolved mucilage, extractive matter, tannin, and any of the vegetable acids; and fecula is frequently suspended in it, with sometimes perhaps a portion of resin, diffused by the medium of the other principles.

When newly expressed, these juices are generally impure and viscid: on standing for some time, they deposit a quantity of mucilaginous matter, along with grosser impurities; the clear liquor is poured off, and passed repeatedly through a fine linen cloth, by which it is rendered more pure. A small quantity of alcohol, generally about one fortieth part of the weight, is added; the juice, on standing, deposits, after this addition, another sediment; from this it is poured off, and the clear liquor is put into bottles, which are to be kept in a cool place. By these processes, however, much of the active matter

is frequently removed, or chemically changed, and the juice is rendered comparatively inert; and besides it is always liable to decomposition on keeping, from the reaction of the elements of the vegetable matter. This form of preparation is therefore an improper one; it is rejected, with propriety, from the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias; and there is only one officinal juice retained by the Edinburgh College, which might also be discarded, as it is never used, nor kept in the shops. It is named

*SUCCUS COCHLEARIÆ COMPOSITUS, vulgo Succus ad Scorbuticos.* Compound Juice of Scurvy Grass.

“Take of Juice of Scurvy Grass, Juice of Water Cresses from the herbs recently gathered, Juice of the fruit of the Orange, of each two pounds; Spirit of Nutmeg, half a pound. Mix them, and put aside the liquor until the impurities subside; then pour it off.”

This used to be employed as a remedy in scurvy, in the dose of half a pound daily; but it has long been in total disuse.