

CHAP. XIII.

TINCTURE.—TINCTURES.

TINCTURES are solutions usually of vegetable, sometimes, however, of animal, and even of mineral substances in spiritous liquors. The solvent may be alcohol either pure, diluted with water, or impregnated with ammonia or ether. Alcohol dissolves the resin, camphor, and essential oil of plants: it is more particularly employed as the menstruum for substances purely resinous, or whose virtues reside in a resin. Where a portion of gum is mingled with the resin, or where tannin or extractive matter is the active principle, diluted alcohol is the proper solvent: it in general dissolves the active matter of all entire vegetable substances, as the bark, leaves, flowers; and wherever it can be properly applied, it is preferable to pure alcohol, as more economical and less pungent. Alcohol, impregnated with ammonia, is employed only in forming tinctures of a few substances, with the medicinal operation of which, ammonia is supposed to coincide.

Tinctures usually contain the active matter of the substances from which they are prepared, in a more concentrated state than infusions or decoctions, the power of the solvent being greater; hence they require to be given

only in a small dose ; and the power of the solvent, which is otherwise considerable, may be neglected. They have the still more important advantage of not being liable to spontaneous decomposition ; the affinities of the elements of vegetable matter, whence new combinations are established, which are favoured by water, being counteracted by alkohol ; and hence a tincture, if kept secluded from the air, so as to prevent the loss of the alkohol by evaporation, can be preserved any length of time without decomposition.

Tinctures are prepared by infusing the materials in the spirit, without the application of heat. By applying heat, the solvent power is so far promoted, that the impregnation is effected in a shorter time ; but the inactive and grosser matter, it has been supposed, is frequently liable to be extracted, and the high temperature is unnecessary, as, by allowing the solvent to remain a sufficient time (fourteen days usually) on the ingredients, it is fully saturated. Alkaline salts were at one time supposed to increase the solvent power, both of alkohol and diluted alkohol, the tincture being of a much deeper colour when a small portion had been added. But this arises, in part at least, from the action of the alkali on the colouring matter, as the same effect is obtained when they are added to a tincture already prepared ; and even where they increase the solubility of some principles, as of resinous matter, they do not always coincide in medicinal operation with the substance operated on, and they render the tincture more nauseous.

Some tinctures are liable to decomposition on diluting them with water, those especially prepared with pure alcohol, in which resinous matter chiefly is dissolved, the resin being precipitated. Even tinctures prepared with diluted alcohol are frequently rendered turbid by dilution with water. And it sometimes happens even that a decomposition ensues on mixing a tincture prepared with alcohol with another prepared with diluted alcohol. Such decompositions require to be attended to in their administration, and to be so far obviated, at least when the precipitation is copious, as that by trituration with mucilage the resinous matter shall be diffused.

TINCTURA ALOES SOCOTORINÆ. Tincture of Aloes.
(Tinct. Aloes, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Socotorine Aloes in powder, half an ounce; Extract of Liquorice, one ounce and a half; Alcohol, four ounces; Water, one pound. Digest for seven days with a gentle heat in a close vessel, shaking the vessel frequently, and pour off the tincture when clear.”

This tincture, which has a place in all the Pharmacopœias, is the only one in which the solvent has a still larger proportion of water than the diluted alcohol of the usual strength. It dissolves, however, the aloes sufficiently. The liquorice is designed to cover the taste, which it does very imperfectly. The tincture may be employed as a cathartic in the dose of an ounce, but is seldom used; aloes, from its intense bitterness, being better prescribed under the form of pill.

TINCTURA ALOES ETHEREA. ¹_D Ethereal Tincture of Aloes.

“Take of Socotorine Aloes, Myrrh, of each in powder, one ounce and a half; English Saffron, one ounce; Spirit of Sulphuric Ether, one pound. Digest the myrrh with the spirit for four days in a closed phial; then add the saffron and aloes. Digest again for four days; and when the impurities have subsided, pour off the tincture.”

If the ingredients of this tincture were digested together, the spirit would be so much saturated with the aloes, as to take up little of the myrrh; but by digesting it first on the myrrh, it dissolves a larger quantity of it, and is still capable of dissolving a sufficient proportion of the aloes and saffron. The spirit of sulphuric ether affords a more grateful tincture than alcohol. A similar preparation has long kept its place in the Pharmacopœias, under the name of Elixir Proprietatis, and has been much used as a stimulant aperient in dyspeptic affections, jaundice and amenorrhœa, given in a dose of one or two drachms. In the dose of six drachms it acts as a cathartic.

TINCTURA ALOES CUM MYRRHA. Tincture of Aloes and Myrrh. (Tinct. Aloes Comp. *Ph. Lond. et Dub.*)

“Take of Myrrh in powder, two ounces; Alcohol, one pound and a half; Water, half a pound. Mix the alcohol with the water; then add the myrrh; digest for four days; and lastly, add, of Socotorine Aloes, one

ounce and a half; English Saffron, one ounce. Digest again for three days, and pour off the pure tincture."

This tincture differs in little from the former but in the menstruum. Being less grateful, it is used principally externally as an application to bleeding wounds, and a stimulant to foul ulcers.

TINCTURA AMOMI REPENTIS. Tincture of Cardamom.
(Tinct. Cardam. *Ph. Lond. et Dub.*)

"Take of Cardamom Seeds, four ounces; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper."

This tincture is used for its aromatic flavour and pungency; and as these are not considerable, it is but little employed.

TINCTURA ARISTOLOCHIE SERPENTARIÆ. Tincture of Snake-Root. (Tinct. Serpent. *Ph. Lond. et Dub.*)

"Take of Virginian Snake-Root bruised, two ounces; Cochineal in powder, one drachm; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper."

Serpentaria is seldom exhibited under the form of tincture, and it would require indeed to be given in such a dose, that the power of the menstruum would be predominant. As a grateful bitter, it may be given occasionally in dyspepsia in a dose of two drachms.

TINCTURA BENZOIN COMPOSITA, *vulgo Balsamum Traumaticum*. Compound Tincture of Benzoin. (Tinct. Benzoini Comp. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Benzoin in powder, three ounces; Balsam of Peru, two ounces; Hepatic Aloes, half an ounce; Alcohol, two pounds. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.” Balsam of Tolu and Storax are substituted in the other Pharmacopœias for the Peru Balsam.

This is used only externally, and principally as an application to recent superficial wounds. It has long been in use under the names of Wade's Balsam and Friar's Balsam. A piece of linen moistened with it generally stops the hæmorrhage from a slight wound, and allows it to heal by the first intention. It is also sometimes applied as a stimulant to foul ulcers.

TINCTURA CAMPHORÆ, *vulgo Spiritus Vinosus Camphoratus*. Tincture of Camphor. (Spirit. Camphor. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Camphor, one ounce; Alcohol, one pound. Mix, so as to dissolve the camphor. It may be also made with a double or triple proportion of camphor.” In the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias, it is prepared of the strength of two ounces to a pint of spirit.

This solution is used externally as a stimulant and anodyne application in chronic rheumatism and spasmodic pains, being rubbed on the part. It is applied in a similar manner to bruises and strains. Linen moistened with

it is used as an application to chilblains; and it is sometimes added in small quantity to collyria employed in ophthalmia.

The London College have inserted another solution of camphor in alkohol, impregnated with ammonia, under the name of

LINIMENTUM CAMPHORÆ COMPOSITUM.

“ Take of Camphor, two ounces; Water of Ammonia, six ounces; Spirit of Lavender, a pint. Mix the water of ammonia with the spirit, and distil a pint from a glass retort with a gentle heat. Dissolve the camphor in the distilled liquor.”

This liniment is applied to the same uses as the preceding, but the addition of the ammonia renders it more powerful as a stimulant.

TINCTURA CASTOREI. Tincture of Castor. (Tinct. Castor. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Russian Castor, one ounce and a half; Alkohol, one pound. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.” In the Dublin Pharmacopœia, this tincture is ordered to be prepared with diluted alkohol; but with pure alkohol it is more grateful.

Castor is a substance nearly inert, and this tincture, in which a small quantity of it only is dissolved, can scarcely be supposed to have any medicinal efficacy. It is given sometimes as an antispasmodic, in a dose of from half a drachm to a drachm.

TINCTURA CASTOREI COMPOSITA. Compound Tincture
of Castor.

“ Take of Russian Castor, one ounce ; Assafœtida, half an ounce ; Ammoniated Alcohol, one pound. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

This tincture, which has a place only in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, is rather more active than the former, from the addition of the assafœtida and the ammonia. It is given in hysteria in the dose of a drachm.

TINCTURA CINCHONÆ OFFICINALIS. Tincture of Peruvian
Bark. (Tinct. Cinchonæ, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Peruvian Bark in powder, four ounces ; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.” In the formula of the London College, seven ounces of bark are ordered to two pints of proof-spirit, whether with the effect of rendering the tincture much stronger may be considered as doubtful.

The active matter of bark is extracted by diluted alcohol, but so sparingly, that it may be doubted whether in the tincture the powers of the menstruum are not greater than those of the bark. It can therefore never be employed where large quantities of cinchona are required. It is used only as a bitter in dyspepsia, occasionally, in a dose of two drachms, and for this purpose the compound tincture of bark, to be afterwards noticed, is preferable.

TINCTURA CINNAMOMI COMPOSITA, *olim Tinctura Aromaticæ*. Compound Tincture of Cinnamon, formerly Aromatic Tincture. (Tinct. Cinnam. Comp. Ph. Lond. Dub.)

“ Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised, Cardamom Seeds bruised, each one ounce; Long Pepper in powder, two drachms; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain.”

This is a grateful aromatic tincture, seldom used by itself, but frequently added to other tinctures, or to mixtures, to communicate flavour and pungency. It is thus often used in combination with bitters and astringents.

TINCTURA COLOMBÆ. Tincture of Colombo. (Tinct. Colomb. Ph. Lond. Dub.)

“ Take of the Root of Colomboidin powder, two ounces; diluted Alcohol, two pounds. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Colombo does not appear to yield its active matter very readily, at least this tincture is not strong, and cannot be employed for any of the more important purposes for which this root is prescribed. It is used indeed merely as a bitter tincture in dyspepsia, in a dose of three or four drachms.

TINCTURA CONVULVULI JALAPÆ. Tincture of Jalap. (Tinct. Jalap. Ph. Lond. Dub.)

“ Take of the Root of Jalap in powder, three ounces;

Diluted Alcohol, fifteen ounces. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper."

The activity of jalap resides in a resinous matter, which in this tincture is extracted along with a portion of mucilage. It may be given as a cathartic, in a dose of four or six drachms. Jalap, however, is usually rather given in substance, and scarcely ever under this form.

TINCTURA CROCI. Tincture of Saffron. (Tinct. Croci, *Ph. Dub.*)

"Take of English Saffron, one ounce; Diluted Alcohol, fifteen ounces. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper."

This tincture is to be valued only for its colour.

TINCTURA DIGITALIS PURPUREÆ. Tincture of Foxglove. (Tinct. Digital. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

"Take of the dried Leaves of Foxglove, one ounce; Diluted Alcohol, eight ounces. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper." In the preparation of this very active and important tincture, the same proportions are ordered in all the Pharmacopœias.

Tincture of Foxglove has been supposed to be the form under which the operation of this plant as a narcotic is best obtained, and it is with this view that it has been introduced: it has also the important advantages, that it can be kept without the powers of the digitalis being impaired, and that its dose is easily regulated. The usual dose is ten drops, which, according to the general

rules observed in the administration of *digitalis*, is to be continued until its effects are obtained.

TINCTURA FERULÆ ASSAFOETIDÆ. Tincture of Assafoetida. (Tinct. Assafoetid. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Assafoetida, four ounces; Alkohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Alkohol being the solvent in this tincture, it is a solution chiefly of the resinous part of the assafoetida, and it is more grateful than when made with proof-spirit. The Dublin College order a menstruum, composed of two pints of rectified spirit, and eight ounces of water. As a remedy in tympanitis and hysteria, it is sometimes given in a dose of one drachm; but in any quantity in which it can be given, so that the operation of the solvent shall not be predominant, its effects must be extremely trivial.

TINCTURA GENTIANÆ COMPOSITA, *vulgo Elixir Stomachicum*. Compound Tincture of Gentian. (Tinct. Gentian. Comp. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Gentian Root, two ounces; dried Orange-peel, one ounce; Canella Bark, half an ounce; Cochineal, half a drachm; Diluted Alkohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

In this tincture, the bitterness of the gentian is completely extracted, and it is rendered more grateful by the aromatic quality of the orange-peel and canella. It is

used as a stomachic in a dose of two or three drachms, in cases where the stomach is disordered from any occasional cause. In more permanent forms of dyspepsia, it cannot be employed with equal advantage, and the continued use of tinctures of this kind ought always, as Cullen remarked, to be avoided, as being liable to accustom the stomach to the stimulus of ardent spirit.

TINCTURA GUAJACI. Tincture of Guaiac. (Tinct. Guaiac, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of the Resin of Guaiac, one pound; Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

The proportion of guaiac to the solvent in this tincture, is unnecessarily large. Only half a pound in the London Pharmacopœia, and four ounces in the Dublin Pharmacopœia, are ordered to two pints of alcohol.

This tincture may be given in a dose of two or three drachms, but it is inferior in activity to the one which follows.

TINCTURA GUAJACI AMMONIATA. Ammoniated Tincture of Guaiac. (Tinct. Guaiac. Amm. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of the Resin of Guaiac, four ounces; Ammoniated Alcohol, one pound and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

As the ammonia coincides with the guaiac as a stimulant and diaphoretic, this affords a preparation of more efficacy, it is supposed, than the simple tincture, and it is

more frequently employed. It is given in chronic rheumatism, in a dose from one to two drachms.

TINCTURA HELLEBORI NIGRI. Tincture of Black Hellebore. (Tinct. Helleb. Nig. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Black Hellebore Root bruised, four ounces; Cochineal, half a drachm; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

It was under the form of this tincture that black hellebore was celebrated by Mead as an emmenagogue, in a dose of one drachm. Cullen remarks with regard to it, that he had never found it successful, and it is now little used.

TINCTURA HYOSCYAMI NIGRI. Tincture of Black Henbane. (Tinct. Hyoscyam. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of the Dried Leaves of Black Henbane, one ounce; Diluted Alcohol, eight ounces. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Henbane has been introduced in modern practice as a substitute for opium in particular cases, already pointed out under its history. The inspissated juice being liable to be variable in strength, the tincture has been employed, and has now a place in all the Pharmacopœias, nearly of the same strength. Its dose has been stated to be twenty-five drops, but in general not much effect is obtained from it under a dose of half a drachm.

TINCTURA KINO. Tincture of Kino. (Tinct. Kino, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Kino, two ounces ; Diluted Alcohol, one pound and a half.”

Kino consists principally of tannin : it is entirely soluble in diluted alcohol. The dose of this tincture is from half a drachm to a drachm.

TINCTURA LAURI CINNAMOMI. Tincture of Cinnamon. (Tinct. Cinnamom. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Cinnamon Bark bruised, three ounces ; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

The diluted alcohol is impregnated with the aromatic flavour of the cinnamon, and it is merely as possessing this flavour that this tincture is used in mixtures.

TINCTURA MELOES VESICATORII, *vulgo Tinctura Cantharidum*. Tincture of Cantharides. (Tinct. Cantharid. *Ph. Dub.*—Tinct. Lyttæ, *Ph. Lond.*)

“ Take of Cantharides bruised, one drachm ; Diluted Alcohol, one pound. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Diluted alcohol extracts and holds dissolved the acrid matter of cantharides, and it is under this form that this substance has been generally employed internally, being more manageable in its dose than it is in powder. It has been given as a diuretic in dropsy, and as a remedy

in incontinence of urine, gleet, leucorrhœa, and some cutaneous diseases. Its dose is from ten to twenty drops, increased gradually until some sensible operation is produced. Dr C. Smyth has remarked, however, that in ischuria arising from debility of the coats of the bladder, he had found little advantage derived from the tincture, while in substance the cantharides had been successful. The tincture is also employed externally as a rubefacient.

TINCTURA MIMOSÆ CATECHU, *olim Tinctura Japonica.*
Tincture of Catechu. (Tinct. Catechu, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Catechu, three ounces ; Bark of Cinnamon, two ounces ; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Catechu, consisting almost entirely of tannin and extractive matter, is dissolved by diluted alcohol, and in this tincture it is rendered more grateful by the cinnamon. It is given in a dose of one drachm, as an astringent.

TINCTURA MYRRHÆ. Tincture of Myrrh. (Tinct. Myrrhæ, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“ Take of Myrrh in powder, three ounces ; Alcohol, twenty ounces ; Water, ten ounces. Digest for ten days, and strain through paper.”

Myrrh being principally resinous, is not entirely soluble in common proof-spirit, and therefore alcohol less diluted is employed for its solution. The tincture is

used principally as an external stimulant and antiseptic application, more especially in affections of the teeth and gums.

TINCTURA OPII, *sive Thebaica; vulgo, Laudanum liquidum.*

Tincture of Opium. (Tinct. Opii, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Opium, two ounces; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

In this tincture all the active matter of opium is dissolved, the residuum being impurities or insoluble matter, and a given quantity of the tincture having been found to produce the same effects on the system nearly as the quantity of opium, which, by calculation, it contained, ought to have done, allowance being made for the undissolved matter. The proportion of opium to each drachm of the tincture is five grains, but by evaporation it is found to yield only three grains and a half; twenty-five drops is supposed to be equal in power to one grain of solid opium, and is the dose commonly given to a person not accustomed to it. It is of the same strength as ordered in the different Pharmacopœias.

Laudanum, as this tincture is named, is given in all the cases in which opium is usually administered, and is preferred to it as being more speedy in its operation, more manageable in its dose, and more convenient for combination with other remedies. Where the stomach is in an irritable state, so as to be easily excited to vomiting, or where the operation of the opium is wished to

be exerted more slowly, or more peculiarly on the intestinal canal as in diarrhoea and spasmodic colic, it is given in the solid state, and usually in the form of pill. Externally the tincture is occasionally applied locally as a stimulant and anodyne. •

TINCTURA OPII AMMONIATA; *olim*, *Elixir Paregoricum*.
Ammoniated Tincture of Opium.

“ Take of Benzoic Acid, English Saffron, of each three drachms; Opium, two drachms; Volatile Oil of Anise, half a drachm; Ammoniated Alkohol, sixteen ounces. Digest for seven days in a shut phial, and strain through paper.”

This formula is designed as the improvement of a preparation which has long been medicinally employed under the name of Paregoric Elixir, and which, as a weak and pleasant opiate, has in particular been much used as a remedy in catarrh. The formula, however, is but ill contrived. While the ammonia can add nothing to the efficacy of the preparation, its pungency renders it extremely ungrateful; and the tincture approaches too nearly in strength to the common tincture of opium. The Paregoric Elixir of the London Pharmacopœia, and which has now also a place in the Dublin Pharmacopœia, (Tinct. Opii Camphorata, to be afterwards noticed), is better adapted to the purposes for which it is designed, and is generally preferred. The composition of the Edinburgh College contains a grain of opium in a drachm,

and this is its medium dose. The other does not contain more than a grain in half an ounce.

The operation of the opium cannot be much influenced by the substances with which it is combined in this formula. The common application of it is as a remedy in catarrhal affections. Its dose is from half a drachm to a drachm, sometimes two drachms, taken generally at bedtime.

TINCTURA RHEI PALMATI. Tincture of Rhubarb.
(Tinct. Rhei, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of the Root of Rhubarb, three ounces; Lesser Cardamom Seeds, half an ounce; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

Proof-spirit extracts nearly all the active matter of rhubarb, and this tincture therefore has all its powers. It is sometimes prescribed in dyspeptic affections and in diarrhoea, in a dose from half an ounce to an ounce. The tincture of the Dublin Pharmacopœia has the addition of a little liquorice and saffron.

TINCTURA RHEI ET ALOES; *olim, Elixir Sacrum*. Tincture of Rhubarb with Aloes.

“Take of the Root of Rhubarb cut, ten drachms; Socotorine Aloes, six drachms in powder; Lesser Cardamom Seeds bruised, half an ounce; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

The cathartic power of the rhubarb is in this tincture increased by combination with the aloes. It is employed as a stimulating aperient and purgative, in a dose from half an ounce to an ounce, frequently also as an emmenagogue.

TINCTURA RHEI ET GENTIANÆ; *olim, Tinctura Rhei Amara.* Tincture of Rhubarb with Gentian.

“Take of Root of Rhubarb, two ounces; Gentian Root, half an ounce; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

This combination of gentian with rhubarb is supposed to render it a more useful remedy in dyspeptic cases; but the power of the one is so inconsiderable, compared with that of the other, that no important advantage is gained from it. Its dose is from two to four drachms.

TINCTURA SAPONIS, *vulgo Linimentum Saponaceum.* Tincture of Soap. (Liniment. Sapon. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of Soap, four ounces; Camphor, two ounces; Volatile Oil of Rosemary, half an ounce; Alcohol, two pounds. Digest the soap in the alcohol for three days; then add the camphor and oil to the strained liquor, agitating it.” There is a similar composition in the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias, under the name of LINIMENTUM SAPONIS COMPOSITUM, three ounces of hard soap and one ounce of camphor being dissolved in a pint of spirit of rosemary.

This is a stimulant of considerable efficacy, used as an external application, by friction, in strains and rheumatic pains.

TINCTURA SAPONIS CUM OPIO; *olim, Linimentum Anodynum.* Tincture of Soap with Opium.

“This is made in the same manner, and from the same ingredients, as the tincture of soap; only adding at first one ounce of opium.”

It is used for the same purposes as the preceding tincture, and likewise as an anodyne in rheumatism and spasms of the muscles. It is frequently successful in relieving pain by topical application, though the relief is often only temporary.

TINCTURA SENNÆ COMPOSITA, *olim Elixir Salutis.* Tincture of Senna. (Tinct. Sennæ, *Ph. Lond. Dub.*)

“Take of the Leaves of Senna, two ounces; Root of Jalap, one ounce; Coriander Seeds, half an ounce; Diluted Alcohol, three pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and to the tincture strained through paper add four ounces of Refined Sugar.”

This forms a very excellent purgative tincture, less unpleasant in its taste than any of the other cathartic tinctures, not liable therefore to excite nausea, and at the same time operating sufficiently well. Its dose is one ounce or ten drachms. In the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias it is prepared without the jalap, and is therefore less active.

TINCTURA TOLUIFERÆ BALSAMI; *olim, Tinctura Tolutana.* Tincture of Tolu Balsam. (Tinct. Bals. Tolut. *Ph. Dub.*)

“Take of Balsam of Tolu, one ounce and a half; Alcohol, one pound. Digest until the balsam is dissolved, and strain through paper.”

The tolu balsam is entirely soluble in alcohol; but as it is a substance of no activity, this tincture is scarcely used but on account of its flavour, and for making the syrup of tolu.

TINCTURA VERATRI ALBI. Tincture of White Hellebore.

“Take of White Hellebore Root, eight ounces; Diluted Alcohol, two pounds and a half. Digest for seven days, and strain through paper.”

White hellebore is a medicine perhaps never prescribed internally, its operation is so violent. The dose of this tincture cannot exceed a few drops. Neither is it used as an external application.

THE following are the Tinctures peculiar to the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias.

TINCTURA AURANTII. Tincture of Orange-Peel. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

“Take of Fresh Orange-Peel, three ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Digest for three days, and strain.”

The alcohol is in this tincture impregnated with the flavour and bitterness of the orange-peel, and it may be used as communicating flavour, or in combination with more powerful bitters.

TINCTURA CAMPHORÆ COMPOSITA. Ph. Lond.

“Take of Camphor, two scruples; Hard Opium in powder, Acid of Benzoin, of each one drachm; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.” The same composition, with the addition of a drachm of Essential Oil of Anise, (which used also to be an ingredient in the above formula, but has been left out, as its flavour is rather disagreeable,) has a place in the Dublin Pharmacopœia, under the name of Tinctura Opii Camphorata.

This is the tincture which has been known under the name of Paregoric Elixir, and is in common use as a pleasant opiate in catarrh, two tea-spoonfuls being taken at bedtime. Half an ounce of it contains a grain of opium. It is therefore inferior in strength, but less harsh and stimulating, as has been already remarked, than the tincture which has a place in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, under the same popular name of Paregoric Elixir. The London College have given it its present name, rather than the former one, of Tinctura Opii Camphorata, to lessen the risk of its being confounded with Tincture of Opium, in prescribing it.

TINCTURA CAPSICI. Tincture of Capsicum. *Ph. Lond.*

“Take of Capsicum Berries, an ounce; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.”

Under this form capsicum may be employed as a stimulant and stomachic; and diluted, it may afford an easy mode of forming the capsicum gargle.

TINCTURA CARDAMOMI COMPOSITA. Compound Tincture of Cardamom. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

“Take of Cardamom Seeds, Carraway Seeds, Cochineal, of each beat to powder, two drachms; Cinnamon Bark bruised, half an ounce; Raisins freed from the Stones, four ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.”

There is a similar composition under the same name in the Dublin Pharmacopœia, the raisins being omitted. With this omission, it is nearly the same with the Compound Tincture of Cinnamon of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, and may be applied to the same uses.

TINCTURA CASCARILLÆ. Tincture of Cascarilla. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

“Take of Cascarilla Bark, four ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.”

Cascarilla is so little employed in modern practice, that there is scarcely any advantage in having its tincture as an officinal preparation.

TINCTURA CINCHONÆ COMPOSITA. Compound Tincture of Peruvian Bark. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

“Take of Pale Peruvian Bark beat to powder, two ounces; Dried Orange-Peel, an ounce and a half; Virginian Snake-Root bruised, three drachms; Saffron, one drachm; Cochineal, two scruples; Proof-Spirit, twenty fluidounces. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.”

This is the composition which has been known under the name of Huxham's Tincture of Bark. It is more grateful than the simple tincture, and, from the substances added to the cinchona, is probably a better stomachic. It is principally in dyspeptic affections that it is employed, in a dose of two drachms taken occasionally.

TINCTURA HUMULI. Tincture of Hop:

“Take of Hops, five ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.”

Hop having been introduced as a narcotic, the tincture affords a convenient form for its administration. It has been supposed to be nearly of the same strength as tincture of opium, but it requires in general to be given in a dose of from half a drachm to a drachm, to produce much sensible effect.

TINCTURA RHEI COMPOSITA. Compound Tincture of Rhubarb. *Pharm. Lond.*

“Take of Root of Rhubarb cut, two ounces; Licorice Root bruised, half an ounce; Ginger Root cut,

Saffron, of each, two drachms; Water, a pint; Proof-Spirit, twelve fluidounces. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain."

The principle in which the purgative quality of rhubarb resides, has been supposed to be more completely dissolved by water than by other solvents; hence from the large proportion of water in this tincture, it is supposed this quality will be obtained more completely; while the proportion of alcohol will prevent spontaneous decomposition. Its medium dose as a purgative is an ounce.

TINCTURA SCILLÆ. Tincture of Squill. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

"Take of Squill Root, recently dried, four ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Digest for fourteen days, and strain."

Squill, when employed as a diuretic, operates most effectually in substance: as an emetic or expectorant it is given under the form of the vinegar or syrup, the vinegar correcting its nauseous taste. It is not apparent what particular advantage is to be derived from a tincture of it,—a preparation in which the acrimony of the squill must be very imperfectly covered. The dose of this tincture is from twenty to sixty drops.

TINCTURA VALERIANÆ. Tincture of Valerian. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

"Take of Valerian Root, four ounces; Proof-Spirit,

two pints. Digest with a gentle heat for fourteen days, and strain."

The active matter of valerian is sufficiently extracted by diluted alcohol. The powers of the menstruum probably however exceed those of the dissolved matter, and hence this tincture cannot be employed with much advantage.

TINCTURA VALERIANÆ AMMONIATA. Ammoniated Tincture of Valerian. *Ph. Lond. Dub.*

"Take of Valerian Root, four ounces; Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia, two pints. Digest for fourteen days, and strain."

This tincture may be more powerful than the preceding, from the impregnation of ammonia. It is employed in hysterical affections. Its dose is from one to two drachms.

TINCTURA ZINGIBERIS. Tincture of Ginger. *Ph. L. D.*

"Take of Ginger, two ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Macerate for fourteen days, and strain."

This tincture contains the pungency of the ginger, and may be used as an aromatic to conceal the flavour and taste, or promote the operation of other remedies. To obviate flatulence, ginger is generally taken in substance.

TINCTURA ANGUSTURÆ. Tincture of Angustura. *Ph. Dub.*

"Take of the Bark of Angustura in coarse powder, two

ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Digest for seven days, then strain the tincture."

Diluted Alcohol dissolves the active matter of angustura; and under this form it has been sometimes given in dyspepsia, in a dose of two drachms occasionally.

TINCTURA GALBANI. Tincture of Galbanum. Ph. Dub.

"Take of Galbanum in small pieces, two ounces; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Digest them for seven days; then strain the tincture."

This tincture has sometimes been used in hysteria, to obviate flatulence, in a dose of two or three drachms. It can scarcely be supposed to have any power.

TINCTURA MOSCHI. Tincture of Musk. Ph. Dub.

"Take of Musk, two drachms; Rectified Spirit, one pint. Digest for seven days, and strain the tincture."

This tincture can be employed only to communicate the odour of musk, and is therefore of little importance.

TINCTURA QUASSIÆ. Tincture of Quassia. Ph. Dub.

"Take of the Wood of Quassia rasped, one ounce; Proof-Spirit, two pints. Digest for seven days; then strain the tincture.

The bitterness of quassia may be sufficiently extracted in this preparation. These bitter tinctures appear, however, to be unnecessarily multiplied in the Pharmacopœias, especially as from the action of the menstruum on the stomach, the form of tincture is not the best for the administration of this class of remedies.