
CHAP. XXII.**ELECTUARIA.—ELECTUARIES.**

THIS term is applied to that form of compound medicines where the consistence is nearly that of thick honey. An electuary is composed, in general, of a powder reduced to the proper consistence by the addition of syrup or mucilage. It is a proper form for administering medicines which are not very disagreeable in their taste or flavour; and, except in a few officinal preparations, it is an extemporaneous prescription, as when long kept it is liable to become too thick and adhesive from the evaporation of part of its moisture. Dry powders generally require twice their weight of syrup to bring them to the due consistence; and syrup is preferable to mucilage, as the electuary made with the former does not so soon become dry. The common dose of an electuary rarely exceeds two tea-spoonfuls, and is seldom less than a tea-spoonful; any very active medicine, which requires to be given in a smaller dose, being usually administered under the form of bolus.

The London College have united the Electuaries with the Conserves, as they are both compositions of vegetable

matter with sugar, and are of similar consistence; and have given to them the common name of Confections. In conserves, however, the addition of the saccharine matter is in much larger proportion, and is designed to preserve the vegetable matter; in electuaries, the syrup is designed merely to communicate the required form. The Edinburgh College retain the distinction of conserves, and the individual preparations which have this name have been already considered.

ELECTUARIUM AROMATICUM. Aromatic Electuary. (*Confectio Aromatica, Ph. Lond.*—*Electuarium Aromaticum, Ph. Dub.*)

“Take of Aromatic Powder, one part; Syrup of Orange-Peel, two parts. Mix, beating them well together, so as to form an electuary.” The composition which has a place in the other Pharmacopœias is somewhat different. The following is the formula given by the London College: “Take of Cinnamon Bark, Nutmegs, each two ounces; Cloves, one ounce; Cardamom Seeds, half an ounce; Saffron dried, two ounces; Prepared Shells, sixteen ounces; Refined Sugar, two pounds; Water, a pint. Triturate the dry substances together into a fine powder, then add the water gradually, and mix them so as to form an uniform mass.”

The composition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia is the more simple of these; and in that of the London Pharmacopœia, the carbonate of lime is foreign to the object of the combination, though, as it has long had a

place, it is still retained. Either electuary is a grateful aromatic preparation, frequently combined with other medicines, or made the basis of cordial or carminative mixtures, requiring merely for this purpose to be diffused in water with a little syrup.

ELECTUARIUM CASSIÆ FISTULÆ. Electuary of Purging Cassia. (*Confectio Cassiæ, Ph. Lond.*—*Electuarium Cassiæ, Ph. Dub.*)

“Take of the Pulp of Cassia in pods, four parts; Pulp of Tamarind, Manna, of each one part; Syrup of Pale Rose, four parts. Dissolve the manna beat in a mortar, with a gentle heat, in the syrup; then add the pulps, and, by a continued heat, reduce the mixture to a proper consistence.” The composition with regard to the ingredients is the same in the other Pharmacopœias.

This electuary affords a mild laxative, which operates in the dose of an ounce. From the predominance of the pulps and the saccharine matter, it is liable, however, to become sour on keeping; it is also inferior in activity to the next electuary, which is equally pleasant, and hence, it is so little used, that it is never found in the shops.

ELECTUARIUM CASSIÆ SENNÆ, *olim Electuarium Lenitivum.* Electuary of Senna. (*Confectio Sennæ, Ph. Lond.*—*Electuarium Sennæ, Ph. Dub.*)

“Take of the Leaves of Senna, eight ounces; Coriander Seeds, four ounces; Liquorice Root, three ounces; Figs, Pulp of Prunes, of each one pound; Pulp of Tama-

rind, half a pound; Refined Sugar, two pounds and a half. Bruise the senna with the coriander seeds, and separate by passing through a sieve ten ounces of the mixed powder. Boil the residuum with the figs and the liquorice in four pounds of water to one half; then express and strain. Reduce the strained liquor, by evaporation, to about a pound and a half. Afterwards add the sugar, so as to make a syrup. Add this syrup gradually to the pulps, and, lastly, mix in the powder." The composition in the London Pharmacopœia is the same, with the addition of half a pound of Pulp of Cassia. In the Dublin Pharmacopœia it is different; the ingredients being, Senna Leaves in fine powder, four ounces; Pulp of Prunes, a pound; Pulp of Tamarinds, two ounces; Syrup of Brown Sugar (Molasses), a pint and a half; Essential Oil of Carraway, two drachms.

This electuary is in very common use as a mild and pleasant purgative. Its dose is six drachms, or an ounce; and it is sometimes rendered more active by the addition of a little jalap, or super-tartrate of potash. The electuary of the Dublin Pharmacopœia, though more simple than the others, must be less grateful, from containing so large a proportion of molasses; and the oil of carraway will communicate rather too much pungency to a medicine in this form.

ELECTUARIUM MIMOSÆ CATECHU, *olim Confectio Japonica*. Electuary of Catechu. (Electuarium Catechu Compositum, *Ph. Dub.*)

“ Take of Extract of Catechu, four ounces; Kino,

three ounces; Bark of Cinnamon, Nutmeg, of each one ounce; Opium, diffused in a sufficient quantity of Spanish White Wine, one drachm and a half; Syrup of Red Rose, boiled to the consistence of honey, two pounds and a quarter. Reduce the solid ingredients to powder, and, mixing with them the opium and syrup, form an electuary." In the Dublin Pharmacopœia, the nutmeg is omitted, the quantity of cinnamon being proportionally increased, and the Syrup of Ginger is substituted for Syrup of Rose: the proportion of opium is the same.

In this electuary, the more powerful vegetable astringents are combined; they are rendered more grateful by the addition of the aromatics, and the efficacy of the composition, as a remedy in diarrhœa, is increased by the opium. It is the basis of the common extemporaneous astringent mixture; two drachms of it being diffused with a little syrup in six ounces of water, and a table spoonful of this being taken three or four times a day. One grain of opium is continued in rather more than three drachms.

ELECTUARIUM OPIATUM, *olim Electuarium Thebaicum.*

Opiate Electuary. (*Confectio Opii, Ph. Lond.*)

"Take of Aromatic Powder, six ounces; Virginian Snake-root, rubbed to a fine powder, three ounces; Opium, diffused in a sufficient quantity of Spanish White Wine, half an ounce; Syrup of Ginger, one pound. Mix, so as to form an electuary." The formula in the London Pharmacopœia is somewhat different from this. It pre-

scribes of "Hard Opium, rubbed to powder, six drachms; Long Pepper, an ounce; Ginger-root, two ounces; Caraway Seeds, three ounces; Syrup, a pint. Triturate the opium with the syrup heated, then add the other ingredients ground to powder, and mix them."

This is a substitute for compositions once highly celebrated, and which have long kept their place in the Pharmacopœias of Europe, the Mithridate and Theriaca, and which at one period consisted of above an hundred ingredients. Opium appeared, amid this farrago, to be the ingredient of predominating power, modified principally by aromatics; they have been, therefore, gradually reformed into the present preparation, and even it is scarcely used. Each drachm, prepared according to the formula in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, contains a grain and a half of opium; and rather more in that prepared by the prescription of the London College, thirty-six grains of the latter containing one grain.

It remains to take notice of those Electuaries or Confections as they are named, which are peculiar to the London Pharmacopœia.

CONFECTIO AMYGDALÆ. Almond Confection.

"Take of Sweet Almonds, an ounce; Gum Arabic in powder, a drachm; Refined Sugar, half an ounce. The almonds having been previously macerated in water, and their external pellicle removed, beat the whole together,

until they form an uniform mass." This is introduced as affording an easy and convenient mode of preparing the almond emulsion extemporaneously; a little of this confection forming it by diffusion in water.

CONFECTIO RUTÆ. Confection of Rue.

"Take of the Dried Leaves of Rue, Carraway Seeds, Bay Berries, of each an ounce and a half; Sagapenum, half an ounce; Black Pepper, two drachms; Clarified Honey, sixteen ounces. Triturate the dry ingredients into a fine powder; then having added the honey, mix them all together."

This is intended merely as the basis of a moderately stimulating enema, sometimes given in the hysteric paroxysm, and in flatulent colic.

CONFECTIO SCAMMONIÆ. Confection of Scammony,
Ph. Lond. (Electuarium Scammonii, *Ph. Dub.*)

"Take of Scammony powder, an ounce and a half; Cloves, bruised, Ginger-Root in powder, of each six drachms; Oil of Carraway, half a fluidrachm; Syrup of Rose, as much as may be necessary. Triturate the dry substances into a very fine powder; then having added the syrup, rub them again; and, adding the oil of carraway, mix them together." The composition in the Dublin Pharmacopœia is nearly the same, the cloves being omitted, and their oil added instead of Oil of Carraway.

This is a stimulating cathartic, not very frequently employed. It is given in a dose of from half a drachm to a drachm.