

---

---

**CHAP. XXIV.****TROCHISCI.—TROCHES.**

**T**ROCHES, or Lozenges, consist of powders mixed with mucilage, in such a proportion, that when dried they are firm and hard. While in the state of a soft paste, they are cut into small square or round tablets, and these are hardened by drying. The form is one adapted principally to such medicines as are designed to dissolve slowly in the mouth; and hence they are always rendered pleasant by the addition of a large proportion of sugar. They are seldom active remedies, but are employed principally in affections of the mouth or throat. As of little importance, they have been rejected in the Dublin and in the late edition of the London Pharmacopœia, and a few only are retained by the Edinburgh College.

**TROCHISCI CARBONATIS CALCIS.** Troches of Carbonate of Lime.

“ Take of Prepared Carbonate of Lime, four ounces; Gum Arabic, one ounce; Nutmeg, one drachm; Refined Sugar, six ounces. Rub these to powder, and make them into a mass with water, fit for forming troches.”

This is a pleasant form under which carbonate of lime

may be given as an antacid, though the quantity of saccharine matter may perhaps rather favour the production of acid in the stomach; and either from this, or from not being well prepared in the shops, they are little used.

TROCHISCI GLYCYRRHIZÆ. Liquorice Troches.

“Take of Extract of Liquorice, Gum Arabic, of each one part; Refined Sugar, two parts. Let them be dissolved in warm water, and strained. Then evaporate the solution, with a gentle heat, into a mass, which form into troches.”

These, from their demulcent quality, may be used to allay coughing, in catarrh; but the simple extract of liquorice is equally effectual, and when purified by solution in water, and afterwards inspissated so as to be of a firm consistence, forming what is named Refined Liquorice, is more grateful. Hence these troches are never used.

TROCHISCI GLYCYRRHIZÆ CUM OPIO. Liquorice Troches with Opium.

“Take of Opium, two drachms; Tincture of Tolu Balsam, half an ounce; Simple Syrup, eight ounces; Extract of Liquorice, softened with Warm Water, Gum Arabic, in powder, of each five ounces. First rub the opium thoroughly with the tincture; then add gradually the syrup and the extract; afterwards sprinkle in the

powder of Gum Arabic; and, lastly, dry the mass, that it may be formed into troches, each weighing ten grains."

These are the most active troches in the Pharmacopœia, and are very effectual in relieving the tickling cough frequently attending catarrh. The opium is the ingredient on which their efficacy principally depends, its local operation lessening the irritation which gives rise to coughing; the others cover its taste and flavour, and render the composition pleasant, adding at the same time a demulcent quality. One drachm, or six troches, contain one grain of opium; and from six to twelve may be taken in twenty-four hours. The composition would be improved, if the proportion of opium were diminished, as they would then be less ungrateful; their action would be more gradual, and a greater number could be easily taken. A substitute might be found too for the balsam of Tolu, the flavour of which is rather unpleasant, and which cannot be supposed to communicate any virtue.

#### TROCHISCI GUMMOSI. Gum Troches.

"Take of Gum Arabic, four parts; Starch, one part; Refined Sugar, twelve parts. These being rubbed to powder, are to be formed into a mass, with rose water, fit for forming troches."

This composition is designed as a demulcent, but is never used; it is not very pleasant, and gum Arabic, when pure, answers the same purpose equally well.

TROCHISCI NITRATIS POTASSÆ. Troches of Nitrate of Potash.

“ Take of Nitrate of Potash, one part ; Refined Sugar, three parts. Beat them to powder, and, with mucilage of gum tragacanth, make them into a mass proper for forming troches.”

Under this form, nitrate of potash is sometimes used as a refrigerant in angina tonsillaris, and to allay the sense of heat attending salivation, and abate the inflammation, being allowed to dissolve slowly in the mouth. They do not very well retain their form, being liable to become humid, and a mixture of nitre and sugar in powder answers equally well.