

If instead of the hydrocyanate of potass the cyanuret is made to enter into a mixture, a quarter of a grain gradually increased to a grain, will be the proper proportions, though the latter dose has been exceeded by some practitioners. The following are a few formulæ.

*Pectoral Mixture.*

Medicinal hydrocyanate of potass..1 gros.  
Distilled water ..... 1 livre.  
Refined sugar.....1½ once.

Seven drachms to be taken night and morning, and the dose may be divided so as to give five or six such quantities in the twenty-four hours.

*Pectoral Potion.*

Infusion of ground ivy..... 2 onces.  
Medicinal hydrocyanate of potass 15 drops.  
Syrup of marshmallows..... 1 once.

Eighty minims to be taken every three hours.

*Mixture of Cyanuret of Potassium.*

Lettuce water.....2 onces.  
Cyanuret of potassium ....½ a grain to 2 grains.  
Syrup of marshmallows....1 once.

Seven drachms and a half every two hours.

*Syrup of Hydrocyanate of Potass.*

Clarified simple syrup.....1 livre.  
Medicinal hydrocyanate of potass.1 gros.

This syrup may be added to ordinary pectoral mixtures, in lieu of other syrups.

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CYANURET OF ZINC.

The cyanuret of zinc has been latterly extensively used in Germany as a substitute for prussic acid; and it has acquired the credit of possessing decided vermi-

fuge properties. We shall confine ourselves to the mode of preparing it, in order that future experiments may determine its efficacy.

*Mode of Preparation.*

M. Pelletier precipitates the sulphate of zinc by hydrocyanate of potass, by which a triple hydrocyanate of zinc is formed, which being dried and calcined at a dull red heat, is soon converted into cyanuret of zinc, mixed however with some cyanuret of potassium. Berzelius however denies that any but the alkaligenous metals retain their cyanogen after calcination; all the others forming quadri or bi-carburets of the metals.

M. Henry obtains pure cyanuret of zinc by adding cautiously to a solution of sulphate of zinc a filtered and recent solution of cyanuret of potassium until a precipitate ceases to be formed. This precipitate washed and carefully dried is the white cyanuret of zinc. Should the solution of cyanuret of zinc be alkaline, it should be proportionately saturated with a small quantity of acetic acid.

*Mode of Employment.*

It may be employed in the same doses as the cyanuret of potassium, beginning with a quarter of a grain and advancing gradually to a grain and a half, in a mixture to be given by spoonsful: caution is however requisite in its administration.

In Hufeland's Journal for 1823, Dr. Henning is related to have derived great benefit from the cyanuret of zinc in the cases in which hydrocyanic acid is given. His success was particularly great in the vermination of children. In such cases he gave a grain of it mixed with powdered jalap. He has also employed it in diseases consequent on dentition. In neuralgic affections of the stomach, especially in spasm of that organ, he found it of the first benefit. In these instances he was in the habit of prescribing as follows:—

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Cyanuret of zinc.....  | 6 grains |
| Calcined magnesia..... | 4 „      |
| Cannella powder .....  | 3 „      |

To be taken in one dose every four hours. Sometimes the cyanuret is mixed with sugar, and its action assisted by the periodical administration of a warm aromatic infusion. The same remedy has been used against cases of dyspepsia and colic, supervening on difficult menstruation. On the whole, Dr. Henning thinks the cyanuret of zinc preferable to the hydrocyanic acid itself.

[Dr. Copland, whose practical dicta may always be relied upon, tells me that he has found the cyanuret of zinc of the first benefit in the treatment of whooping-cough.—*Tr.*]

#### CYANURET OF IODINE.

This new compound of iodine, azote, and carbon, was discovered by M. Serullas, (*Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, 1824,) when repeating the experiments of Davy and Faraday, on the liquefaction of gases. He soon ascertained, however, that iodine and cyanogen united readily, without the aid of extraneous pressure.

##### *Chemical and Physical Properties.*

Purified cyanuret of iodine is very white, and presents itself in the form of very long and exceedingly minute needles. It has a pungent odour, irritates the eyes, inducing lachrymation, and has a strongly bitter caustic taste. It has a greater specific gravity than sulphuric acid, to the bottom of which it falls rapidly. It volatilizes without decomposition, at a heat much greater than that of boiling water. Thrown on burning charcoal, it gives off abundant violet-coloured vapours. It is more soluble in alcohol than water, and the colourless solutions have the odour and smell of