

gold. The elder Cullerier made some experiments with the hydrochlorate of platina and soda: the results resembled those consequent on the hydrochlorate of gold and soda.

GRENADIA, AND BARK OF THE POMEGRANATE ROOT.

The decoction of the bark of pomegranate root has been much lauded and employed in the treatment of tape-worm, ever since M. Merat published in France the treatise of M. Gomes on the subject. (*Journ. Complémentaire*, t. 16.) In that memoir sixteen cases are related, in which the decoction was eminently successful in expelling teniæ. Subsequent facts have established the usefulness of the remedy.

Among the French physicians M. Bourgeoise has published several facts on the subject in the *Bibliothèque Médicale* for 1824. His successful cases amount to thirty-four in number: he never administered the decoction until the patients had passed some portions of tenia or some cucurbitenæ, and was always most careful in the choice of the article to be used—a precaution on which he lays particular stress; the bark taken from a graft ought never to be employed, being always bad.

Chemical Composition of the Bark of Pomegranate Root.

M. Latour, of Troyes, has given the best analysis of this bark. He finds it to contain wax, chlorophylle, resin, gallic acid, tannin, a crystalline matter (*grenadia*), fatty matter.

Grenadia.

This substance is procured in silky amianthine crystals of pure white. It burns without residue, and gives

no ammoniacal products; it is fusible, and with care sublimes. Grenadia is neither alkaline nor acid; is very slightly soluble in cold and easily so in boiling alcohol: is insoluble in ether, but soluble in water to any extent. Nitric acid transforms it to oxalic.

Grenadia is exceedingly sweet, but differs from saccharine matter by not fermenting, by its volatility, and mode of crystallization. M. Latour makes it consist of

Carbon	38.16
Hydrogen	6.86
Oxygen	53.85
Azote	1.13

M. Couerbe, however, denies that it contains any azote.

The preparation of grenadia is effected by exhausting the bark by ether and boiling alcohol successively, and thus forming a soft extract, on treating which with water the grenadia is easily dissolved and purified by repeated crystallization from alcohol.

Mode of administering the Bark.

The evening before the decoction is to be taken it is usual to give an ounce and a half or two ounces of castor oil with an equal quantity of syrup of lemons; spare diet and diluents are also premised until the following decoction is administered.

Recent, or dried bark of the root of the <i>punica granatum</i> , bruised.....	2 ounces.
Water	2 livres.

Macerate in the cold for twenty-four hours; then boil by a slow fire until it is reduced to one livre, and strain.

This quantity of decoction is to be taken in three doses, one of which is given every half or three quarters of an hour.

For the most part in an hour, at latest in two hours after the third dose the whole worm is passed, twisted upon itself, and firmly knotted in many points.

Sometimes the two first doses are rejected by vomiting, but the third must nevertheless be persevered in. It has been affirmed, that such doses of the bark are apt to produce serious consequences, but M. Bourgeoise never saw anything to induce him to lessen the quantity; indeed, he has given much larger doses. If the whole tenia has not been ejected, it will be necessary to continue the vermifuge decoction for several days in the same manner.

I am not aware that grenadia has yet been tried medicinally.

FATTY PRINCIPLE OF THE BUDS OF THE MALE FERN. (ASPIDIUM FILIX MAS.)

M. Peschier, apothecary of Geneva, and brother of the physician of the same name, read a paper to the Helvetic Society of the Natural Sciences, on the fatty principle of the buds of the male fern. He obtains it by digesting the buds in ether. (See *Bibliothèque Universelle*, t. 30.) Dr. Peschier says, that he has employed this ethereal tincture against tenia with uniform success. This preparation has an oily consistence, and is given in the form of pills in combination with some extract; each of these pills should contain a drop of the fatty matter. Eight of them are sometimes sufficient, but in other cases, it has been found necessary to augment the dose to 30 drops divided into small doses; such a quantity, however, should be extended over several days. Dr. Peschier asserts, that this medicine thus administered does not fatigue the patients, and that it destroys the worm, which may be brought away by any mild purgative.

I have made use of this oil for some years and have found it most effectual in expelling tenia: the dose should be very gradually increased, lest exhausting purging should ensue.

M. Caventou digested the root of the fern with sul-