
CHAP. V.**OLEA FIXA SIVE EXPRESSA.—FIXED OR EXPRESSED OILS.**

EXPRESSED Oils are distinguished by their unctuousity and insipidity, by being insoluble in water and in alcohol, incapable of volatilization without change, and by combining with the alkalis, forming soaps. They exist in the fruit and seeds of vegetables, and are obtained by expression, or decoction with water. The former method is in general to be preferred; and to afford the oil pure it must be performed without heat, which, though it favours the separation of the oil, communicates to it acrimony and an unpleasant flavour. The process, however, is seldom performed in the shops. To preserve them from becoming rancid, they ought to be kept secluded from the air, this change being produced in them by absorption of oxygen.

A process in Pharmacy somewhat difficult is to mix these oils with any watery fluid, so that they may be conveniently exhibited. It is usually done by the medium of mucilage, or of an alkali. If triturated with mucilage, and a small quantity of sugar, the oil is diffused through the water, and a milky liquor is formed, in which, however, the diffusion is rather imperfect. A combination more complete and permanent is effected, by adding a few drops of water of ammonia, or two or three grains of sub-carbonate of potash, without the mucilage.

OLEUM AMYGDALÆ COMMUNIS. Oil of Almonds. Ed.

Take of Fresh Almonds any quantity. Bruise them in a stone-mortar, inclose them in a hempen bag, and express the oil by a press without heat.

OLEUM AMYGDALÆ. Almond Oil. Lond.

Macerate Almonds, either sweet or bitter, in cold water for twelve hours, and bruise them; then, without applying any heat, express the oil.

OLEUM AMYGDALARUM. Oil of Almonds. Dub.

Bruise Fresh Almonds in a mortar, and express the oil without heat, by a press.

This oil is the purest of the expressed oils, being limpid and entirely free from odour or taste. It is used as a demulcent, and for the general medicinal purposes to which expressed oils are applied.

OLEUM LINI USITATISSIMI, Oil of Lintseed; **OLEUM LINI.** Lond. and Dub. This oil is directed to be expressed in the same manner, from the seeds of the plant. Being less pure, it is used only as an external application. Usually, it is prepared on the large scale; and to remove the mucilage, heat is employed in the expression.

OLEUM RICINI, Castor Oil. Lond. Bruise the seeds, from which the external pellicle has been removed, and express the oil without any application of heat.—This oil is usually prepared in the West Indies by decoction, and is milder than when obtained by expression. Hence in the Pharmacopœias of the other colleges, it is merely inserted in the catalogue of the *Materia Medica*.

This is the case too with the Olive Oil, **OLEUM OLEÆ EUROPÆÆ**, which of all the expressed oils is most largely employed; it is imported from the South of Europe.