

viate flatulence, or as a vehicle to cover the taste of unpleasant medicines.

INFUSUM VALERIANÆ. Infusion of Valerian. Dub.

Take of the Root of Valerian, in coarse powder, two drachms; Boiling Water, seven ounces. Digest for an hour, and strain the liquor when it is cold.

Valerian is frequently taken in hysteric affections under the form of infusion, and this will afford a preparation of proper strength. Its dose is from one to two ounces.

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## CHAP. VIII.

### OF MUCILAGES.

**T**HE term Mucilage, understood as denoting a particular preparation in Pharmacy, is applied to solutions of gummy matter in water, sufficiently concentrated to have a certain degree of viscosity; or to similar solutions obtained by the maceration of water on vegetables, in which this kind of matter abounds. They are principally employed as vehicles for other substances, either to suspend powders in liquids, to diffuse oils or resinous matter in water, or to give form and tenacity to pills.

MUCILAGO AMYLÆ. Starch Mucilage. Ed.

Take of Starch, half an ounce; Water, one pound. Rub

the starch, with the water gradually added to it, then boil them for a short time.

MUCILAGO AMYLI. Lond.

Take of Starch, three drachms; Water, a pint. Rub the starch with a little of the water dropt upon it; then boil, until it form a mucilage.

MUCILAGO AMYLI. Starch Mucilage. Dub.

Take of Starch, half an ounce; Water, a Pint. Rub the starch, adding the water gradually; then boil a little.

Starch is the fecula of wheat, and though insoluble in cold water, is dissolved by boiling water, and forms a gelatinous solution. This starch-mucilage is used as a vehicle for giving opium under the form of enema.

MUCILAGO ASTRAGALI TRAGACANTHÆ. Mucilage of Gum Tragacanth. Ed.

Take of Gum Tragacanth beat to powder, one ounce; Boiling Water, eight ounces. Macerate for twenty-four hours, and rub the gum carefully, that it may be dissolved; then strain through linen.

MUCILAGO GUMMI TRAGACANTHÆ. Dub.

Take of Gum Tragacanth in powder, two drachms; Water, eight ounces. Macerate in a close vessel until the gum is dissolved; then strain the mucilage through linen.

Tragacanth is not easily dissolved in water, and, even with the aid of heat, the viscid mucilaginous liquor that is formed remains turbid and flocculent. The proportion of the gum to the water is rather large in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, but is designed to form a stiff mucilage, to be used principally in making troches.

MUCILAGO MIMOSÆ NILOTICÆ. Mucilage of Gum Arabic. Ed.

Take of Gum Arabic in powder, one part; Boiling Water,

two parts. Digest with frequent agitation until the gum be dissolved; then strain through linen.

*MUCILAGO ACACIÆ.* Mucilage of Gum Arabic. Lond.

Take of Gum Arabic in powder, four ounces; Boiling Water, half a pint. Rub the gum with the water, gradually added until it form a mucilage.

*MUCILAGO GUMMI ARABICI.* Mucilage of Gum Arabic. Dub.

Take of Gum Arabic in coarse powder, four ounces; Boiling Water, eight ounces. Digest them, agitating frequently, so as to dissolve the gum; then strain through linen.

Mucilage of gum Arabic is sometimes employed as the basis of the common demulcent mixtures used in catarrh. It is more generally used as an agent in Pharmacy, to suspend in water substances insoluble in that liquid, to diffuse oils in water, and for similar purposes.

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## CHAP. IX.

### OF DECOCTIONS.

**T**HE power of water as a solvent, is, like that of all other chemical agents, increased by heat. Hence, in general, the active matter of vegetable substances is more completely extracted by boiling them with water, than by mere infusion, either cold or warm, the residuum in the one case being found more inert than in the other.

It is not to be concluded, however, from this fact, that the decoction is proportionally more powerful in medicinal operation. On the contrary, though the active matter of