

bone or horn by heat, along with the carbonate of ammonia formed in the same process. It is at first thick, of a dark brown colour, and offensive odour: but by repeated distillations from water it is rendered thinner, more limpid, and less offensive. In this rectified state it has been celebrated as a stimulant and antispasmodic, but it is altogether discarded from modern practice.

CHAP. XVIII.

OLEOSA.—OILY PREPARATIONS.

THE preparations included in this chapter, under this name, are combinations of expressed oils with more active substances, principally designed for external application, the oil moderating their action, or communicating a convenient form.

OLEUM AMMONIATUM, *vulgo Linimentum Volatile*. Ammoniated Oil, commonly called Volatile Liniment. Ed. LINIMENTUM AMMONIÆ. Liniment of Ammonia. Dub.

Take of Olive Oil, two ounces; Water of Ammonia, two drachms. Mix them.

LINIMENTUM AMMONIÆ FORTIUS. Stronger Liniment of Ammonia. Lond.

Take of Liquor of Ammonia, an ounce; Olive Oil two fluid-ounces. Shake them together until they unite.

LINIMENTUM AMMONIÆ CARBONATIS. Liniment of Carbonate of Ammonia. Lond.

Take of Liquor of Carbonate of Ammonia, a fluidounce;

Olive Oil, three fluidounces. Shake them together until they unite.

In these compositions, the alkali combines with the expressed oil, forming a thick white saponaceous compound, in the last the combination with the alkaline carbonate is imperfect. They are all used as rubefacients, and are convenient for application; a piece of flannel moistened with any of them being applied to the part, or sometimes friction being made with the liniment for a short time. From the former mode of application, the rubefacient operation is sufficiently obtained; it is a remedy often employed in cynanche tonsillaris, as less severe than a blister. The composition of the Edinburgh College seems on the whole best adapted to general use, as of medium strength, and, if necessary, it is easy to render it a little more active.

OLEUM CAMPHORATUM. Camphorated Oil. Ed. (Linimentum Camphoræ. Lond.—Ol. Camph. Dub.)

Take of Olive Oil, two ounces; Camphor, half an ounce. Mix them, so as that the camphor may be dissolved.

This is a form under which camphor is frequently applied externally as a stimulant and anodyne in rheumatism and other similar affections, and is the most convenient one, when it is to be applied by friction. It is sometimes rendered more active by the addition of a little ammonia.

OLEUM SULPHURATUM. Sulphurated Oil. Ed.

Take of Olive Oil, eight ounces; Sublimed Sulphur, one ounce. Boil with a gentle fire, in a large iron pot, stirring constantly until they unite.

OLEUM SULPHURATUM. Sulphurated Oil. Lond.

Take of Washed Sulphur, four ounces; Olive Oil, a pint. Add

the sulphur gradually to the oil heated in a large iron vessel, and stir constantly with a spatula until they unite.

This process, though apparently simple, is attended with some difficulty, the oil being very liable to boil over, or its vapour to catch fire: the heat therefore requires to be applied with caution, and a large vessel ought to be employed. It is one too unnecessary, for although the composition has been recommended in catarrh, asthma, and phthisis, it has fallen altogether into disuse. It is extremely acrid and offensive. When employed, it was given in a dose of from ten to thirty drops.

CHAP. XIX.

SALES ET SALINA.—OF SALTS AND SALINE SUBSTANCES.

THE term Salt has long been employed, in chemical language, to denote an extensive order of substances; yet it is difficult to assign to it a precise definition, or to distinguish these by characters at once sufficiently comprehensive and appropriate. It is from a combination of the following properties, however, that the definition has been attempted to be formed.

Salts are said to be bodies eminently sapid, or which excite a strong penetrating taste when applied to the tongue. Many of them have indeed this power, but there are others, particularly among the earthy salts, in which any degree of