

PRÆPARATIONES
SIMPLICIORES.

THE MORE SIMPLE
PREPARATIONS.

QUORUNDUM IN AQUA NON SOLUBILIUM
PRÆPARATIO.

THE PREPARATION OF SOME SUBSTAN-
CES NOT SOLUBLE IN WATER.

BEAT these substances first in a mortar to powder; then, pouring on a little water, levigate it upon a hard and polished, but not calcareous, stone, that it may be made as fine as possible. Dry this powder upon blotting-paper laid on chalk, and set it in a warm, or at least dry, place for some days.

In this manner are to be prepared

AMBER,

ANTIMONY,

CALAMINE,

CHALK,

CORAL,

OISTER-SHELLS, first cleansed from their impurities.

TUTTY,

CRABS CLAWS, first broken into small pieces, must be washed with boiling water before they are levigated.

VERDEGRIS must be prepared in the same manner.

R E M A R K.

Calamine is roasted, or calcined, in order that it may be more easily reducible to a very fine powder; and, the shops being usually supplied with it in this calcined state, the College have so directed it in the *Materia Medica*. See *Zinc*. Where Calamine cannot be procured already calcined, this ore of Zinc is to be thrice heated to a strong red heat, and as often quenched with water. Ed. D. 1756.

A direction was given in the former Dispensatory to take particular care that *Antimony*, *Calamine*, and *Tutty*, be reduced to the most subtile powder possible. The sensibility of the parts, to which *Calamine* and *Tutty* are often applied, requires them, as Dr. Lewis has observed, to be perfectly freed from any gross irritating particles; and *Antimony*, when not thoroughly comminuted, may not only, by its needle-like spicula, wound the stomach, but pass off without any other sensible effect than an increase of the grosser evacuations; whilst, if reduced to the utmost fineness, it becomes a medicine of considerable efficacy.

ADIPIS SUILLÆ SEVIQUE OVILLI PRÆPARATIO.

THE PREPARATION OF HOG'S LARD AND MUTTON-SUET.

Cut them in pieces, and melt them with a slow fire; then separate them from the membranes by straining.

AMMO-

AMMONIACI PURIFICATIO.

THE PURIFICATION OF AMMONIACUM.

Boil Gum-Ammoniacum, if it appears impure, in water till it softens, and press it through an hempen cloth; then set it by, that the resinous part may subside. Evaporate the water; and, towards the end of the inspissation, restore the resinous part, and mix it with the gummy.

In the same manner are purified *Afa Fœtida* and such like Gum-resins.

You may also purify any gum, which melts easily, such as *Galbanum*, by putting it into an ox-bladder, and holding it in boiling water till it is so soft that it can be separated from its impurities by pressing through an hempen cloth.

R E M A R K.

In the straining of all the Gums, care should be taken that the heat be neither too great nor too long continued, otherwise a considerable portion of their more active volatile matter will be lost, — an inconvenience

venience which cannot, by any care, be wholly avoided. Hence the purer tears, *unstrained*, are preferred, for internal use, to the strained gums, by the faculty of Paris. L.

As an additional reason for this preference, we may add, that some of the gum-resins, purified in the common way, by solution in water, expression, and evaporation, are not so easily soluble in aqueous menstrua before, as after, such depuration.

CORNU CERVI USTIO.

THE BURNING OF HARTSHORN.

Burn pieces of Hartshorn till they are perfectly white; then rub them to a very fine powder.

R E M A R K.

The pieces of Horn, generally employed in this operation, are those left after distillation. L. Disp. 1746.

In the burning of Hartshorn, a strong fire and the free admission of air are necessary. The potter's furnace was formerly directed for the sake of convenience, but any common furnace, or stove, will do. If some lighted charcoal be spread on the bottom of the grate, and above this the pieces of

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the Horns are laid, they will be burnt to whiteness, still retaining their original form. L.

Burnt Hartshorn is not now considered as a pure earth, having been found to be a compound of calcareous earth and phosphoric acid. It is the weakest of the animal absorbents, or soluble in acids with the most difficulty; but, whether it be of equal or superior use, in diarrhoeas, to more powerful absorbents, must be determined by observation.

HERBARUM ET FLORUM EXSICCATIO.

THE DRYING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS.

Spread them lightly, and dry them with a gentle heat.

R E M A R K.

Both the colours and virtues of Herbs are preserved in greatest perfection when they are dried *hastily* by an heat of common fire as great as that which the sun can impart; an instance of which we have in the drying of Tea by the Chinese. Quick drying is more particularly proper for flowers. Saffron is a part of a flower, dried on paper, on a kind of kiln, with an heat sufficient to make it sweat,

sweat, taking care only not to endanger its scorching. L.

MELLIS DESPUMATIO.

THE DESPUMATION, OR CLARIFYING, OF
HONEY.

Melt the Honey in a water-bath, and take off the scum.

MILLEPEDÆ PRÆPARATIO.

PREPARATION OF THE WOOD-LOUSE.

Suspend the Wood-lice, inclosed in a coarse hempen cloth, in a close vessel, over hot proof-spirit, that, being killed by the vapour, they may be rendered friable.

PULPARUM EXTRACTIO.

THE EXTRACTION OF PULPS.

Set pulpy fruits, if they are unripe or ripe, and dry, in a moist place, that they may soften; then press the pulps through a hair-sieve; afterwards boil them with a gentle fire, frequently

quently stirring them untill they are of a proper thickness.

Also take the pulp of Cassia of the cane, from the pod, and boil it to a due thickness.

Press out the pulps of ripe and fresh fruits through a sieve, without any boiling.

R E M A R K.

The manner of obtaining the pulp of Cassia from the pod is here left to the operator. The former Dispensatory directed it to be boiled out of the bruised pod; by which method the pulp is not obtainable perfectly pure, as the seeds part with their mucilage,—though nothing should be communicated by the pod. The pulp is obtained in the greatest purity, if the quantity be not large, by slitting the pods lengthwise, pushing out the cells and seeds with the fingers, and washing the pulp from them.

The quantity extracted at a time ought not, as Lewis has observed, to be great, as it is apt to turn sour by long keeping.

SCILLÆ

SCILLÆ EXSICCATIO.

THE DRYING OF SQUILL.

Cut the Squill transversely, after the outer skin has been taken off, into thin slices, and dry it with a gentle heat.

R E M A R K.

A proof of the Squill being properly dried is its retaining, though friable, its original bitterness and acrimony.

By drying, Lewis says, the root loses four-fifths of its original weight; and that the parts which exhale are merely watery: hence four grains of the dry root are nearly equivalent to a scruple of the fresh.

It is given as an expectorant and diuretic, to adults, in doses of a few grains: in somewhat larger ones it proves emetic.

SPONGIÆ USTIO.

THE BURNING OF SPONGE.

Beat the Sponge, after cutting it in pieces; and, when separated from its gritty matter,

burn

80 SIMPLE PREPARATIONS.

burn it in a close iron vessel, untill it becomes black and friable: afterwards rub it to a very fine powder.

R E M A R K.

The gritty matter, compared with the weight of the Sponge when prepared, is sometimes considerable.

If the quantity of Sponge put into the vessel at once be large, the outside will be sufficiently burnt before the inside is affected, and the volatile salt of the former will in part escape before that in the latter is begun to be formed. To avoid this inconvenience, the Sponge may be kept continually stirring in such a machine as is used for the roasting of coffee.

Sponge, on distillation with a strong heat, yields a volatile salt in its proper form; and, even in this preparation, the salt is so far extricated, that, if the burnt Sponge be ground in a brass mortar, it corrodes the metal, so as to contract a disagreeable taint, and sometimes an emetic quality. L.

It should, therefore, as directed in the former Dispensatory, be powdered in a mortar of glass or stone. Of this last sort, the mortars of Mr.

WEDGE-

WEDGEWOOD's manufacture are by far the most preferable.

Burnt Sponge is given in doses of a scruple, or more, in scrophulous complaints.

STYRACIS PURIFICATIO.

THE PURIFICATION OF STORAX.

Dissolve the Storax in rectified spirit of wine, and strain the solution: afterwards reduce it to a proper thickness with a gentle heat.

R E M A R K.

Storax totally dissolves in spirit of wine, so as to pass through the filtre, the impurities alone being left. L.

The College have left to the operator the mode of recovering it, in a solid form, from its solution, either by gently distilling off the spirit, (which, Lewis says, will elevate very little of its flavour,) or wasting it by evaporation.