

PRÆPARATA EX
HYDRARGYRO.

PREPARATIONS OF QUICKSIL-
VER.

HYDRARGYRUS PURIFICATUS.

PURIFIED QUICKSILVER.

TAKE of Quicksilver,
Filings of Iron, of each four
pounds.

Rub them together, and distill from an iron
vessel.

R E M A R K.

If a retort is made use of, the neck should be
considerably inclined downwards, and the receiver
be filled, almost to the neck of the retort, with cold
water,

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water, lest the heated Quicksilver, falling on the bottom, should crack the glass,—and the fire raised no higher than is sufficient to elevate the Quicksilver. L.

HYDRARGYRUS ACETATUS.

ACETATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver one pound.

Diluted nitrous Acid two pounds.

Water of Kali as much as is sufficient.

Mix the Quicksilver, with the acid, in a glass vessel, and dissolve it in a sand-bath; then drop in by degrees the water of Kali, that the calx of Quicksilver may be precipitated: wash this calx with plenty of distilled water, and dry it with a gentle heat. These things being done,

Take of the Calx of Quicksilver, just now described, one pound.

Acetous Acid as much as is necessary to dissolve the Calx.

M

Mix

Mix them in a glass vessel; and, the solution of the Quicksilver being completed, strain it through paper; then evaporate it till a pellicle appears, and set it aside to crystallize.

Keep the crystals in a vessel close stop'd.

R E M A R K.

This is said to form the basis of *Keyser's* pills, and given, in venereal cases, like Calomel, in doses of a few grains.

HYDRARGYRUS CALCINATUS.

CALCINED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver one pound.

Expose the Quicksilver, in a flat-bottomed glass cucurbit, to an heat of about 600 degrees in a sand-bath, till it becomes a red powder.

HYDRARGYRUS CUM CRETA.

QUICKSILVER WITH CHALK.

Take of purified Quicksilver, by weight,
three ounces.

Powdered

Powdered Chalk, by weight, five ounces.

Rub them together untill the globules disappear.

R E M A R K.

This medicine, formerly called *Mercurius alcalifatus*, is said, by Chéyne, Huxham, and others, to be, when properly prepared, an useful alterative in venereal cases and obstructions of the viscera; in doses, to adults, from ten grains to a scruple or half a dram. It is often joined with purgatives to prevent its producing a ptyalism.

HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS.

MURIATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver,

Vitriolic Acid, of each two pounds.

Dried Sea-salt three pounds and an half.

Mix the Quicksilver, with the acid, in a glass vessel, and boil in a sand-heat untill the

M 2

matter

matter is dried. Mix the matter, when cold, with the sea-salt, in a glass vessel; then sublime in a glass cucurbit, with an heat gradually raised. Lastly, let the sublimed matter be separated from the scoriæ.

R E M A R K.

This is the *Mercurius corrosivus sublimatus* of the former Dispensatory, which, at the time that was published, was prepared by few Apothecaries or Chemists, and generally imported from Holland. It has been, for some years, prepared by several chemists in London, and large quantities exported to foreign countries.

The Dutch sublimate was long suspected to be adulterated with arsenic, and is asserted to be so, by *Piderit*, so lately as 1782. (*Pharmac. ration.*) If such a sophistication was, by some peculiar management, practicable, which Lewis seems to have been afraid to deny,—it might be detected by the smell of garlic upon throwing it on burning coals. Experiments, however, have lately proved not only that arsenic will not sublime with an heat which elevates muriated Quicksilver; but a stronger argument against such sophistication is, — that arsenic is not necessary

fary to increase the produce,—as such increase can be effected without the admixture of any arsenic at all.

The operator should be careful to avoid the pernicious fumes, which arise on mixing the vitriolic acid with the Quicksilver, and to choose for the sublimation a glass cucurbit, of which the ingredients will occupy only one third. In the process, the vitriolic acid, after having corroded the Quicksilver to a white calx, and to this the sea-salt has been added, quits the salt to unite itself with the Natron, which is the basis of sea-salt; the muriatic acid, thereby set free, unites with the Quicksilver more readily when assisted by the increasing heat, and sublimes with it in a white crystalline mass, adhering to the upper part of the cucurbit.

This preparation is a very strong active poison, — yet a solution of it was given to the Translator repeatedly as an emetic fifty years ago. It has been employed in very small doses as an alterative, in venereal cases, for more than a century; but its use was not generally known till *Van Swieten*, about the middle of this, warmly recommended it, and not unjustly.

CALOMELAS.

CALOMEL.

Take of muriated Quicksilver one pound.

Purified Quicksilver, by weight,
nine ounces.

Rub them together till the globules disappear, and sublime; then rub all the matter again, and sublime. In the same manner repeat the sublimation four times. Afterwards rub the matter into the finest powder, and wash it by pouring on boiling distilled water.

R E M A R K.

It is of the utmost consequence that the ingredients be perfectly united before the sublimation is begun. The person, who rubs the sublimate with the Quicksilver, should cover his mouth and nostrils, as is common in the powdering Cantharides, &c. it being difficult to prevent the lighter particles of the sublimate from affecting the mouth and eyes.

Lewis

Lewis recommends, as a precaution, to sprinkle the sublimate with a little rectified spirit during the triture; which, he says, will not impede the union of the ingredients, or prejudice the sublimation; but that, if this be done, it is better not at first to cover the subliming vessel with a cap of paper, as is usual, but to defer it till the mixture begins to sublime,—that the spirit may escape.

The marks of the sublimate being perfectly dulcified are its being insipid, and not soluble by long boiling in *distilled* water. If the water has taken up any part of it, on dropping water of Kali, or of Ammonia, into the decoction, it will grow turbid; if not, it will continue limpid.

Calomel is in common use as an alterative in the Lues Venerea, in doses from one grain to five; sometimes joined with laxatives to prevent a pyaemia.

HYDRARGYRUS MURIATUS MITIS.

MILD MURIATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver,
Diluted nitrous Acid, of each half
a pound.

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Mix

Mix in a glass vessel, and set it aside untill the Quicksilver is dissolved. Let them boil, that the salt may be dissolved. Pour out the boiling liquor into a glass vessel, into which another boiling liquor has been put before, consisting of,

Sea-salt, by weight, four ounces.

Distilled Water eight pints.

After a white powder has subsided to the bottom of the vessel, let the liquor swimming at the top be poured out, and the remaining powder be washed, till it becomes insipid, with frequent affusions of hot water; then dried on blotting paper with a gentle heat.

R E M A R K.

This is the *Mercurius dulcis precipitatus* of the *Pharm. Lond.* fol. 1721, p. 145,— adopted by the Edinburgh, 1744, under the name of *Merc. precip. albus*, — and, since that, by the *Swedish Dispensatory*, after the improvement of Mr. *Scheele*, under the name of *Mercurius dulcis*.

Mr. *Scheele's* direction is, — that, when the acid appears no longer to act upon the Quicksilver, the
solution

lution must be made nearly to boil, and continued in that heat for *three or four hours*, now and then shaking the vessel,—towards the end making it boil gently, for a quarter of an hour. See more on this subject in *Scheele's Essays*, and the *Notes of Dr. Beddoes*.

As it has been supposed by many to be a new invention of Mr. *Scheele*, and recommended by him as an easy and cheap substitute for Calomel, it has come pretty much into use; but the testimonies, before the Committee, of its good effects, not being consonant with each other, the College chose not to receive it instead of a medicine of such established character as Calomel, and introduced this for future trial. It is given in doses similar to those of Calomel.

HYDRARGYRUS NITRATUS RUBER.

RED NITRATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of purified Quicksilver,
Nitrous Acid, of each one pound.
Muriatic Acid, one dram by weight.

Mix them in a glass vessel, and dissolve the Quicksilver in a sand-bath; then raise the
fire,

fire, untill the matter is formed into red crystals.

R E M A R K.

This preparation is the *Mercurius corrosivus ruber* of the former Dispensatory. Its sparkling appearance, which is considered as a test of its genuineness and strength, is presently lost if the Calx is not removed from the fire soon after it has acquired it. If adulteration with minium is suspected, it is discovered by the duller hue, but more certainly by burning some of it in a spoon; when the pure will deflagrate entirely, the adulterated will leave the minium or other impurities behind.

It is chiefly used by the Surgeons, as a cathæretic, in applications to foul ulcers, or to their callous edges, and to corrode what is called fungous flesh.

CALX HYDRARGYRI ALBA.

WHITE CALX OF QUICKSILVER.

Take of muriated Quicksilver,

Sal ammoniac,

Water of Kali, of each half a pound.

Dissolve

Dissolve first the Sal ammoniac, afterwards the muriated Quicksilver in distilled water, and add the water of Kali. Wash the precipitated powder untill it becomes insipid.

R E M A R K.

This is the *Mercurius præcipitatus albus* of the former Dispensatory, and generally used in liniments externally; if adulterated with Cerusse, this is left upon burning some of it, as mentioned in a preceding remark.

HYDRARGYRUS CUM SULPHURE.

QUICKSILVER WITH SULPHUR.

Take of purified Quicksilver,

Flowers of Sulphur, of each one pound.

Rub them together untill the globules disappear.

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HYDRARGYRUS SULPHURATUS RUBER.

RED SULPHURATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of Quicksilver, purified, forty ounces.

Sulphur eight ounces, both by weight.

Mix the Quicksilver with the melted Sulphur; and, if the mixture takes fire, extinguish it by covering the vessel; afterwards reduce the mass to powder, and sublime it.

R E M A R K.

This preparation was, in the last Dispensatory, called *Cinnabaris factitia*. The mixture of the Quicksilver and Sulphur, here directed, is very apt to take fire, and a considerable explosion frequently happens (especially if the process is too hastily conducted) as soon as it grows consistent, when the pot, or vessel, must be immediately close covered with a wooden cover. In the sublimation, also, care must be taken to prevent the matter blocking up the neck of the bolt-head. By introducing at times an iron wire, somewhat heated, into its neck, the operator may

may be assured when the danger of this is approaching, and prevent mischief by cautiously raising the vessel higher from the fire. L.

This medicine is employed chiefly in fumigations, sometimes to raise a ptyalism, but oftener for curing ulcers in those infected with the Lues Venerea.

HYDRARGYRUS VITRIOLATUS.

VITRIOLATED QUICKSILVER.

Take of Quicksilver, purified,

Vitriolic Acid, of each one pound.

Mix in a glass vessel, and heat them by degrees, untill they unite into a white mass, which is to be perfectly dried with a strong fire. This matter, on the affusion of a great deal of hot distilled water, immediately becomes yellow, and falls to powder. Rub the powder carefully with this water in a glass mortar. After the powder has subsided, pour off the water; and, adding more distilled water several times, wash the matter till it becomes insipid.

REMARK.

R E M A R K.

In this process, the pernicious fumes are to be avoided. The product is the *Mercurius emeticus flavus* of the former Dispensatory, which, in doses to adults of five or six grains, is an emetic acting very briskly, as the Translator has himself sensibly felt; and, if he is not deceived, evacuating more copiously than many of the safer emetics; — but it certainly ought not to be employed without caution and attention. As an alterative, it has been employed, in small doses, like other preparations of Quicksilver, alone, or in conjunction with other remedies, in venereal as well as other complaints, — not unsuccessfully.

PRÆPARATA