

and brings away a large quantity of water, almost without the patient's perceiving it: that it kills worms, and cures inveterate ulcerous disorders. He, nevertheless, cautions against using it too frequently, or in too large a dose; and observes, that it always proves corrosive and weakening to the stomach.

It has been more recently employed, and with success, in epilepsy and angina pectoris. On account of its very great activity, each pill should not contain above one-eighth or one-fourth of a grain.

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CHAP. VII.—ARSENIC.

ARSENICI OXYDUM SUBLIMATUM. *Lond.*  
*Sublimed Oxyde of Arsenic.*

Reduce oxyde of arsenic to powder; then put it into a crucible; expose it to the fire, and sublime it into another crucible inverted over the first.

THE white oxide of arsenic of commerce is obtained as an insignificant product in roasting cobalt ores, and is therefore often impure. By sublimation, however, it is easily separated from foreign matters, but the operator must be very careful to avoid the fumes which arise during the process.

LIQUOR ARSENICALIS. *Lond.*  
*Arsenical Solution.*

Take of  
Sublimed oxyde of arsenic, in very fine powder;  
Subcarbonate of potass from tartar, of each sixty-four grains,  
Distilled water, a pint.  
Boil together in a glass vessel, until the arsenic be entirely dissolved. Add to the solution, when cold,  
Compound spirit of lavender, four fluidrachms.  
Lastly, add as much distilled water as will make the whole amount exactly to a pint.

ARSENIAS KALI. *Dub.*  
*Arseniate of Kali.*

Take of  
White oxyde of arsenic,

Nitrate of kali, of each one ounce.

Reduce them separately to powder; and, after mixing them, introduce them into a glass retort, placed in a sand-bath, which is to be gradually heated, until the bottom of the retort become obscurely red. It is expedient to transmit the vapours issuing from the retort, by means of a proper apparatus through distilled water, that the nitrous acid extricated by the heat may be condensed. Dissolve the residuum in four pounds of boiling distilled water; and, after due evaporation, set it aside to crystallize.

THE preparation of the London college is a solution of arsenite of potass, and corresponds with Dr Fowler's tasteless ague-drop. The spirit of lavender is added merely to prevent its being mistaken for water, an accident which might happen from its want of colour and taste. It may also preserve it from decomposition, as stated by Mr Hume. Now that arsenic is so much used, it is useful to have an officinal solution of an uniform strength. Dr Powell has justly observed, that "where the dose is small, and the effects so powerful, the most minute attention to its proportion and preparation become necessary;" a drachm of the solution contains one-half of a grain, and it will seldom be necessary to give above ten minims for a dose.

The Dublin preparation is crystallized arseniate of potass. On the application of the heat, the nitric acid of the nitre is decomposed, the oxygen combines with the oxide of arsenic, and converts it into arsenic acid, which unites with the potass, and nitrous gas and red nitrous acid escape. I should not think the latter of sufficient importance to be condensed, as directed by the Dublin college; especially when we consider the possibility of its being contaminated by arsenic, unless, perhaps, according to the latter supposition, it be intended to preserve the operator from the noxious fumes.

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## CHAP. VIII.—COPPER.

*ÆRUGO PRÆPARATA. Dub.*

*Prepared Verdegris.*

Let the verdegris be ground to powder, and the minute particles be separated in the manner directed for the preparation of chalk.