

## AQUA

## Water of

ROSÆ CENTIFOLIÆ. Ed.	}	Rose, from six pounds of the recent petals.
ROSÆ. Dub.		Rose, from six pounds of the recent petals of the Damask rose.
ROSÆ. Lond.		Rose, from eight pounds of the petals of the hundred-leaved rose.

The virtues of all these waters are nearly alike; and the peculiarities of each will be easily understood, by consulting the account given in the materia medica of the substance from which they are prepared. Mr Nicholson mentions, that as rose-water is exceedingly apt to spoil, the apothecaries generally prepare it in small quantities at a time from the leaves, preserved by packing them closely in cans with common salt. This, we understand, is not the practice in Edinburgh; and, indeed, cannot succeed with the petals of the damask rose; for they lose their smell by drying. The London apothecaries, therefore, probably use the red rose. The spoiling of some waters is owing to some mucilage carried over in the distillation; for, if rectified by a second distillation, they keep perfectly well for any length of time.

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 CHAP. XXII.

## EMPYREUMATIC VOLATILE OILS.

EMPYREUMATIC OILS agree in many particulars with the volatile oils already treated of, but they also differ from them in several important circumstances. The latter exist ready formed in the aromatic substances from which they are obtained, and are only separated from the fixed principles by the action of a heat not exceeding that of boiling water. The former, on the contrary, are always formed by the action of a degree of heat considerably higher than that of boiling water, and are the product of decomposition, and a new arrangement of the elementary principles of substances, containing at least oxygen, hydrogen and carbon. Their production is therefore always attended with the formation of other

new products. In their chemical properties they do not differ very remarkably from the volatile oils, and are principally distinguished from them by their unpleasant pungent empyreumatic smell, and rough bitterish taste. They are also more apt to spoil by the contact of the air, and the oftener they are re-distilled, they become more limpid, less coloured, and more soluble in alcohol; whereas the essential oils, by repeated distillations, become thicker and less soluble in alcohol.

Their action on the body is exceedingly stimulant and heating.

OLEUM SUCCINI PURISSIMUM. *Ed.*

*Purified Oil of Amber.*

Distil oil of amber in a glass retort, with six times its quantity of water, till two-thirds of the water have passed into the receiver; then separate this very pure volatile oil from the water, and preserve it in close shut vessels.

OLEUM SUCCINI. *Lond.*

*Oil of Amber.*

Put amber into an alembic, and distil from it in a sand-bath, with a gradually increased heat, an acid liquor, oil and salt impregnated with oil. Then re-distil the oil twice.

*Dub.*

Take of

The oil which rises in the preparation of succinic acid, one pound;

Water, six pints;

Distil until two-thirds of the water have come over; then separate the oil.

THE rectified oil has a strong bituminous smell, and a pungent acrid taste. Given in a dose of ten or twelve drops, it heats, stimulates and promotes the fluid secretions; it is chiefly celebrated in hysterical disorders, and in deficiencies of the uterine purgations. Sometimes it is used externally, in liniments, for weak or paralytic limbs, and rheumatic pains.

MOSCHUS ARTIFICIALIS.

*Artificial Musk.*

By treating one part of oil of amber with four of nitrous acid, added in small portions at a time, and stirring them together with a glass rod, the oil is at last converted into a yellow resin, having the smell of musk, and known in Ger-

many by the name of Artificial musk, where it is often used as a substitute for that expensive drug.

OLEUM CORNU CORVINI RECTIFICATUM. *Dub.*  
*Rectified Oil of Hartshorn.*

Take of

The oil which ascends in the distillation of the volatile liquor of hartshorn, three pounds;

Water, six pints.

Distil the oil, and re-distil it with the water, until it becomes limpid. It ought to be kept in a dark place, and in small phials, completely filled and well-corked.

ANIMAL OIL, thus rectified, is thin and limpid, of a subtile, penetrating, not disagreeable, smell and taste.

*Medical use.*—It is strongly recommended as an anodyne and antispasmodic, in doses of from 13 to 30 drops. Hoffman reports, that it procures a calm and sweet sleep, which continues often for 20 hours, without being followed by any languor or debility, but rather leaving the patient more alert and cheerful than before: that it procures likewise a gentle sweat, without increasing the heat of the blood: that, given to twenty drops or more, on an empty stomach, six hours before the accession of an intermittent fever, it frequently removes the disorder: and that it is likewise a very general remedy in inveterate and chronic epilepsies, and in convulsive motions, especially if given before the usual time of the attack, and preceded by proper evacuations. How far empyreumatic oils possess the virtues that have been ascribed to them, has not yet been sufficiently determined by experience, their tedious and troublesome rectification having prevented their coming into general use, or being often prepared. They are liable also to a more material inconvenience in regard to their medicinal use, namely, precariousness in their quality; for how perfectly soever they may be rectified, they gradually lose, on keeping, the qualities they had received from that process, and return more and more towards their original fetid state.

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### CHAP. XXIII.—DISTILLED SPIRITS.

THE flavour and virtues of distilled waters are owing, as observed in a preceding chapter, to their being impregua-