

Oil of amber, four minims ;
 Solution of ammonia, ten fluidounces.

Macerate the mastiche in the alcohol, until it be dissolved.
 Pour off the clear tincture ; then add the other ingredients,
 and mix them by shaking.

This preparation is intended as a substitute for Eau de Luce, which was formerly imported entirely from Paris. It is now, we believe, prepared also by the chemists and druggists in London ; but without some peculiar manipulation, which is kept secret, the above formula does not succeed in giving the liquor that permanent milky opacity, which is deemed essential to good Eau de Luce ; for it becomes more or less transparent by keeping. This fancied perfection is, however, in a medical point of view, immaterial ; and, whether it be milky or transparent, it is an excellent analeptic remedy, and may be used in the same circumstances, and in the same doses, as the spirit of ammonia itself.

CHAP. XXIV.—INFUSIONS.

WE have already explained the sense in which we employ the term infusion. We confine it to the action of a menstruum, not assisted by ebullition, on any substance consisting of heterogeneous principles, some of which are soluble, and others insoluble in that menstruum. The term is generally used in a more extensive, but, we are inclined to think, a less correct, sense : thus, lime-water and the mucilages, which are commonly classed with the infusions, are instances of simple solution, and the chalk mixture is the mechanical suspension of an insoluble substance. When the menstruum used is water, the solution is termed simply an Infusion ; but when the menstruum is alcohol, it is called a Tincture ; when wine or vinegar, a Medicated Wine or Vinegar. Infusions in water are extremely apt to spoil, and are generally extemporaneous preparations.

AQUA CALCIS COMPOSITA. *Dub.*
Compound Lime Water.

Take of

Guaiac wood, in shavings, half a pound ;
 Liquorice root, sliced and bruised, an ounce ;

Sassafras bark, bruised, half an ounce ;

Coriander seeds, three drachms ;

Lime-water, six pints.

Macerate, without heat, for two days, and filter.

THIS, notwithstanding the name, may be considered as an equivalent for the compound decoction of guaiac, as the lime water cannot fail to be decomposed during the preparation.

AQUA PICIS LIQUIDÆ. *Dub.*

Tar-Water.

Take of

Tar, two pints ;

Water, one gallon.

Mix, by stirring them with a wooden rod, for a quarter of an hour, and after the tar has subsided, strain the liquor, and keep it in well-corked phials.

TAR-WATER should have the colour of white wine, and a sharp empyreumatic taste. It is, in fact, a solution of empyreumatic oil, effected by means of acetic acid. It was at one time much extolled as a panacea, but has of late been little employed. It acts as a stimulant, raising the pulse, and increasing the discharge by the skin and kidneys. It may be drunk to the extent of a pint or two in the course of a-day.

INFUSUM ANTHEMIDIS. *Lond.*

Infusion of Chamomile.

Take of

Chamomile flowers, two drachms ;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate, for ten minutes, in a vessel loosely covered, and filter.

THIS is a very common extemporaneous prescription under the title of *chamomile tea*. It is a good stomachic.

INFUSUM ARMORACIÆ COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*

Compound Infusion of Horse-Radish.

Take of

Fresh horse-radish root, sliced,

Mustard seed, bruised, of each one ounce ;

Boiling water, one pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain ; then add of

Compound spirit of horse-radish, one fluidounce.

THIS is a pungent and stimulant infusion.

INFUSUM AURANTII COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*
Compound Infusion of Orange-peel.

Take of

Orange-peel, dried, two drachms ;
Lemon-peel, fresh, one drachm ;
Cloves, bruised, half a drachm ;
Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for ten minutes, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

A stomachic infusion.

INFUSUM CALUMBÆ. *Lond.*
Infusion of Columbo.

Take of

Columbo root, sliced, one drachm ;
Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

A stomachic bitter.

INFUSUM CARYOPHYLLORUM. *Lond.*
Infusion of Cloves.

Take of

Cloves, bruised, one drachm ;
Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours in a vessel loosely covered, and strain.

AN aromatic stimulant.

INFUSUM CASCARILLÆ. *Lond.*
Infusion of Cascarilla.

Take of

Cascarilla root, bruised, half an ounce ;
Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

AN aromatic stimulant.

INFUSUM CINCHONÆ OFFICINALIS. *Ed.*
Infusion of Cinchona Bark.

Take of

Peruvian bark, in powder, one ounce ;
Water, one pound.

Macerate for twenty-four hours, and filter.

INFUSUM CINCHONÆ. *Lond.**Infusion of Cinchona.*

Take of

The bark of lance-leaved cinchona, bruised, half an ounce ;
Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

INFUSUM CINCHONÆ SINE CALORE. *Dub.**Cold Infusion of Cinchona.*

Take of

Peruvian bark, in coarse powder, one ounce ;

Cold water, twelve ounces, by measure.

Triturate the bark with a little of the water, and add the remainder during the trituration. Macerate for twenty-four hours, and decant the pure liquor.

THIS is a very elegant form of exhibiting the active principles of cinchona bark, and that in which it will sit lightest on weak and delicate stomachs. The trituration directed by the Dublin college will promote the solution. The residuum of the cold infusion may be afterwards employed in making other preparations, especially the extract, for its virtues are by no means exhausted. But it must never be dried, and sold, or exhibited in substance, for that would be a culpable fraud.

INFUSUM CUSPARIÆ. *Lond.**Infusion of Angustura.*

Take of

Angustura bark, bruised, two drachms ;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

A stimulant febrifuge.

INFUSUM DIGITALIS. *Lond.**Infusion of Foxglove.*

Take of

Foxglove leaves, dried, one drachm ;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for four hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain ; then add

Spirit of cinnamon, half a fluidounce.

INFUSUM DIGITALIS PURPUREÆ. *Ed.**Infusion of Foxglove.*

Take of

Dried leaves of foxglove, one drachm ;
 Boiling water, eight ounces ;
 Spirit of cinnamon, one ounce.

Macerate for four hours, and filter.

THIS is the infusion so highly recommended by Withering. Half an ounce or an ounce of it may be taken twice a-day in dropsical complaints. The spirit of cinnamon is added to improve its flavour, and to counteract its sedative effects.

INFUSUM GENTIANÆ COMPOSITUM. *Ed.**Compound Infusion of Gentian.*

Take of

Gentian root, sliced, half an ounce ;
 Dried peel of Seville oranges, bruised, one drachm ;
 Coriander seeds, bruised, half a drachm ;
 Diluted alcohol, four ounces ;
 Water, one pound.

First pour on the alcohol, and, three hours thereafter, add the water ; then macerate without heat, for twelve hours, and strain.

Lond.

Take of

The root of gentian, sliced,
 Dried orange-peel, each one drachm ;
 Fresh lemon-peel, two drachms ;
 Boiling water, twelve fluidounces.

Macerate for an hour in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

Dub.

Take of

Bruised gentian root, two drachms ;
 Fresh lemon-peel, half an ounce ;
 Dried peel of Seville oranges, a drachm and a half ;
 Proof-spirit, four ounces, by measure.
 Boiling water, twelve ounces, by measure.

First pour on the spirit, and after three hours, the water. Lastly, after macerating two days, filter.

THESE formulæ are all essentially the same. The Edinburgh college employ the largest proportion of gentian ; but they infuse it in cold water, which does not extract the bitter

principle so quickly or so fully as boiling water, although it dissipates less of the flavour of the aromatics. The alcohol is a useful addition, both in promoting the extraction of the virtues of all the ingredients, and in preserving the infusion longer from spoiling.

Medical use.—Gentian is the strongest and purest of the European bitters, and readily imparts its virtues to water. These infusions are in very common use as stomachic and tonic.

INFUSUM LINI. *Lond.*

Infusion of Linseed.

Take of

Linseed, bruised, an ounce;

Liquorice root, sliced, half an ounce;

Boiling water, two pints.

Macerate for four hours near the fire, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

THIS is a mucilaginous emollient liquor, much used in gonorrhœas, strangury, and in pectoral complaints.

INFUSUM MENTHÆ COMPOSITUM. *Dub.*

Compound Infusion of Mint.

Take of

The leaves of spearmint, dried, two drachms;

Boiling water, as much as will afford six ounces of the infusion, when filtered.

Digest for half an hour, in a covered vessel; strain the liquor when cold, and then add of

Double refined sugar, two drachms;

Oil of spearmint, three drops, dissolved in

Compound tincture of cardamoms, half an ounce. *Mix.*

THIS infusion is slightly stimulating and diaphoretic, and forms a very agreeable herb-tea, which may be used in any quantity in diet, or as a vehicle for more active remedies.

INFUSUM MIMOSÆ CATECHU. *Ed.*

Infusion of Catechu.

Take of

Extract of catechu, in powder, two drachms and a half;

Cinnamon, bruised, half a drachm;

Boiling water, seven ounces;

Simple syrup, one ounce.

Macerate the extract and cinnamon in the water, in a co-

vered vessel, for two hours; then strain it, and add the syrup.

INFUSUM CATECHU COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*

Compound Infusion of Catechu.

Take of

Extract of catechu, two drachms and a half;

Cinnamon, bruised, half a drachm;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for an hour, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

As this preparation will not keep above a day or two, it must always be made extemporaneously. The long maceration, therefore, becomes very often extremely inconvenient; but it may be prepared in a few minutes, by boiling, without in the least impairing the virtue of the medicine.

Medical use.—Extract of catechu is almost pure tannin. This infusion is therefore a powerfully astringent solution. The cinnamon and syrup render it sufficiently agreeable; and it will be found serviceable in diarrhœas proceeding from a laxity of the intestines. Its dose is a spoonful or two every other hour, or after every loose stool.

INFUSUM QUASSIÆ. *Lond.*

Infusion of Quassia.

Take of

Quassia shavings, a scruple;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

ONE of the most intense and purest bitters.

INFUSUM RHEI PALMATI. *Ed.*

Infusion of Rhubarb.

Take of

Rhubarb, bruised, half an ounce;

Boiling water, eight ounces;

Spirit of cinnamon, one ounce.

Macerate the rhubarb in a close vessel with the water for twelve hours; then add the spirit, and strain the infusion.

INFUSUM RHEI. *Lond.*

Infusion of Rhubarb.

Take of

Rhubarb, sliced, a drachm;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

THIS appears to be one of the best preparations of rhubarb, when not designed as a purgative; water extracting its virtues more effectually, than either vinous or spirituous menstua.

INFUSUM ROSÆ GALLICÆ. *Ed.*

Infusion of Roses.

Take of

The petals of red roses, dried, two ounces;

Boiling water, five pounds;

Sulphuric acid, one drachm;

White sugar, two ounces.

Macerate the petals with the boiling water in an earthen vessel, which is not glazed with lead, for four hours, then add the acid, strain the liquor, and dissolve the sugar in it.

INFUSUM ROSÆ. *Lond.*

Infusion of Roses.

Take of

Dried petals of red roses, half an ounce;

Boiling water, two pints and a half;

Diluted sulphuric acid, three fluidrachms;

Double refined sugar, an ounce and a half.

First pour the water on the petals in a glass vessel, then add the diluted sulphuric acid, and macerate for half an hour. Strain the liquor, and add the sugar.

Dub.

Take of

The petals of red rose buds, dried and beeled, half an ounce;

Diluted sulphuric acid, three drachms, by weight;

Boiling water, three pints.

Double refined sugar, an ounce and a half.

First pour the water on the petals in a glass vessel, then add the acid, and digest for half an hour; filter the liquor when cold, and add the sugar.

THE differences in the directions for preparing this infusion are immaterial. In fact, the rose leaves have very little effect, except in giving the mixture an elegant red colour. Its sub-acid and astringent virtues depend entirely on the sulphuric acid. Altogether, however, it is an elegant medicine, and forms a very grateful addition to juleps in hæmorrhagies, and in all cases which require mild coolers, and sub-astringents; it is sometimes taken with boluses or electuaries of the bark, and likewise makes a good gargle.

INFUSUM SENNÆ. *Lond.**Infusion of Senna.*

Take of

Senna leaves, an ounce and a half;

Ginger root, sliced, one drachm;

Boiling water, one pint.

Macerate them for an hour, in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

INFUSUM SENNÆ. *Dub.**Infusion of Senna.*

Take of

Senna, three drachms;

Lesser cardamon seeds, husked and bruised, half a drachm;

Boiling water, as much as will yield a filtered infusion of six ounces.

Digest for an hour, and filter when cold.

THIS is a well-contrived purgative infusion, the aromatic correcting the drastic effects of the senna. But the quantity ordered to be prepared at one time, by the London college, is much too large; for an ounce or two is a sufficient dose. It is of advantage that it should be used fresh prepared, as it is apt to spoil very quickly.

INFUSUM TAMARINDI CUM SENNÆ. *Ed.**Infusion of Tamarinds and Senna.*

Take of

Preserved tamarinds, one ounce;

Senna, one drachm;

Coriander seeds, bruised, half a drachm;

Brown sugar, half an ounce;

Boiling water, eight ounces.

Macerate for four hours, with occasional agitation, in a close earthen vessel, not glazed with lead, and strain the infusion.

It may also be made with double, triple, &c. the quantity of senna.

INFUSUM SENNÆ CUM TAMARINDIS. *Dub.**Infusion of Senna with Tamarinds,*

Is made as the infusion of senna, by adding, before the water is poured on, an ounce of tamarinds; then strain.

THIS forms a mild and useful purge, excellently suited for delicate stomachs, and inflammatory diseases. The taste of the senna is well covered by the acidity of the tamarinds.

INFUSUM SIMAROUBÆ. *Lond.**Infusion of Simarouba.*

Take of

Simarouba bark bruised, half a drachm ;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Macerate for two hours in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

A bitter aromatic.

INFUSUM TABACI. *Lond.**Infusion of Tobacco.*

Take of

Tobacco leaves, a drachm ;

Boiling water, a pint.

Macerate for an hour in a loosely covered vessel, and strain.

THIS is a narcotic diuretic, which was used with much success in dropsies by Dr Fowler.

INFUSUM VALERIANÆ. *Dub.**Infusion of Valerian.*

Take of

Valerian root, in coarse powder, two drachms ;

Boiling water, seven ounces, by measure ;

Digest for half an hour, and strain when cold.

VALERIAN tea is a very excellent antispasmodic, and often proves serviceable in hysteric cases, where the stomach will not bear the powder in substance.

CHAP. XXV.—DECOCTIONS.

DECOCTIONS differ from infusions only in the action of the menstruum being assisted by a boiling heat. At the same time, however, that the increase of temperature facilitates and expedites the solution of some fixed principles, it gives others a tendency to decomposition, and dissipates all volatile matters. Decoction, therefore, can only be used with advantage for the extraction of principles which are neither volatilized nor altered by a boiling heat.

To promote the action of the menstruum, infusion is sometimes premised to decoction.

In compound decoctions, it is sometimes convenient not to