

DECOCTUM VERATRI. *Lond.*
Decoction of White Hellebore.

Take of

The root of white hellebore, in powder, one ounce ;
Water, two pints ;
Rectified spirit of wine, two fluidounces.

Boil the water with the root to one pint, and strain ; after the liquor is cold, add to it the spirit.

THIS decoction is only used externally as a wash in tinea capitis, lepra, psora, &c. When the skin is very tender and irritable, it should be diluted with an equal quantity of water.

CHAP. XXVI.—MUCILAGES.

MUCILAGO AMYLI. *Ed. Dub.*
Mucilage of Starch.

Take of

Starch, half an ounce ;
Water, one pint.

Triturate the starch, gradually adding the water ; then boil them a little.

Lond.

Take of

Starch, three drachms ;
Water, one pint.

Triturate the starch with the water, gradually added, and boil, till it become a mucilage.

THE mucilage thus formed is very useful in those cases where a glutinous substance is required ; it is often successfully employed as a glyster, in diarrhœas depending on acrimony in the intestines.

MUCILAGO ASTRAGALI TRAGACANTHÆ. *Ed.*
Mucilage of Gum Tragacanth.

Take of

Gum tragacanth, in powder, one ounce ;
Boiling water, eight ounces.

Macerate for twenty-four hours, then triturate carefully, that

the gum may be dissolved; and press the mucilage through a linen cloth.

MUCILAGO GUMMI TRAGACANTHE. *Dub.*

Mucilage of Gum Tragacanth.

Take of

Gum tragacanth, in powder, two drachms;

Water, eight ounces, by measure.

Macerate in a close vessel, till the gum be dissolved; then strain the mucilage through linen.

GUM TRAGACANTH is difficultly soluble in water. When macerated in it, it swells, but does not dissolve. To effect the solution, it must be beaten into a paste with some of the water, and the rest of the water must be added gradually, and incorporated with the paste, by beating them together. Gum tragacanth is a very tenacious substance, and requires a very large proportion of water to form a fluid mucilage. That of the Edinburgh college, which is made with eight parts of water to one of the gum, is a paste rather than a mucilage. The Dublin is made with thirty-two.

MUCILAGO MIMOSÆ NILOTICÆ. *Ed.*

Mucilage of Gum Arabic.

Take of

Gum Arabic, in powder, one part;

Boiling water, two parts.

Digest with frequent agitation until the gum be dissolved; then press the mucilage through linen.

MUCILAGO ACACIÆ. *Lond.*

Mucilage of Acacia.

Take of

Gum Arabic in powder, four ounces;

Boiling water, half a pint.

Triturate the gum with the water, gradually added until it be dissolved.

MUCILAGO GUMMI ARABICI. *Dub.*

Mucilage of Gum Arabic.

Take of

Gum Arabic, in coarse powder, four ounces;

Boiling water, eight ounces by measure.

Digest with frequent agitation till the gum be dissolved, then strain the mucilage through linen.

It is very necessary to pass the mucilage through linen, in order to free it from pieces of wood and other impurities

which always adhere to the gum: the linen may be placed in a funnel.

Mucilage of gum arabic is very useful in many operations in pharmacy; it is also much used for properties peculiar to substances of its own class; and of all the gums, it seems to be the purest.

DECOCTUM CYDONIÆ. *Lond.*

Decoction of Quince-seed.

Take of

Quince-seeds, two drachms;

Water, one pint.

Boil, with a slow fire, for ten minutes, and strain.

THIS mucilage, though sufficiently agreeable, is perfectly superfluous, especially as it is apt to spoil, from being mixed with the other principles of the seeds soluble in water. It is, besides, never so transparent as mucilage carefully prepared from gum arabic, is not cheaper, and is unfit for many purposes, being coagulated by acids.

CHAP. XXVII.—SYRUPS.

SYRUP. *Dub.*

Syrups.

IN making syrups, where neither the weight of the sugar, nor the manner in which it should be dissolved, are directed, the following rule is to be followed:

Take of

Double refined sugar, in fine powder, twenty-nine ounces;

The liquor prescribed, one pint.

Gradually add the sugar, and digest, with frequent agitation, in a close vessel, and in a moderate heat, until it be dissolved; then set it aside for twenty-four hours; take off the scum, and pour off the syrup from the fæces, if there be any.

Lond.

Syrups are to be kept in a place whose temperature never exceeds 50° Fahr.