

Dissolve in ten ounces, by measure, of
Compound decoction of chamomile; then add of
Olive oil, one ounce;
Sulphate of magnesia, half an ounce.
Mix them.

ENEMA FÆTIDUM. *Dub.*

Fetid Clyster,

Is made by adding to the former two drachms of the tincture of assafoetida.

THESE are very useful extemporaneous preparations.

ACETICA.

CHAP. XXX.—MEDICATED VINEGARS.

INFUSIONS of vegetable substances in acetic acid are commonly called Medicated Vinegars. The action of the acid in this case may be considered as twofold.

1. It acts simply as water, in consequence of the great quantity of water which enters into its composition, and generally extracts every thing which water is capable of extracting.

2. It exerts its own peculiar action as an acid. In consequence of this it sometimes increases the solvent power of its watery portion, or dissolves substances which water alone is incapable of dissolving, and in a few instances it impedes the solution of substances which water alone would dissolve.

As acetic acid, in itself sufficiently perishable, has its tendency to decomposition commonly increased, by the solution of any vegetable matter in it, it should never be used as a menstruum, unless where it promotes the solution of the solvent, as in extracting the acrid principle of squills, colchicum, &c. and in dissolving the volatile, and especially the empyreumatic oils, or where it coincides with the virtues of the solvent.

ACETUM AROMATICUM. *Ed.*
Aromatic Vinegar.

Take of

Rosemary tops, dried,
Sage leaves, dried, each four ounces;
Lavender flowers, dried, two ounces;
Cloves, two drachms;
Distilled acetous acid, eight pounds.

Macerate for seven days, express the liquor, and filter it through paper.

THIS is given as an improved preparation of the *Vinaigre des quatre voleurs*, which was supposed to be a certain prophylactic against the contagion of plague and similar diseases. It is in fact a pleasant solution of essential oils in vinegar, which will have more effect in correcting bad smells, than in preventing fever.

ACETUM SCILLÆ MARITIMÆ. *Ed.*
Vinegar of Squills.

Take of

Dried squills, two ounces;
Distilled acetous acid, two pounds and a half;
Alcohol, three ounces.

Macerate the squills in the acetous acid for seven days; then press out the liquor, to which add the alcohol; and when the fæces have subsided, pour off the clear liquor.

ACETUM SCILLÆ. *Lond.*
Vinegar of Squills.

Take of

Squills, recently dried, one pound;
Acetic acid, six pints;
Proof-spirit, half a pint.

Macerate the squills with the vinegar in a covered glass vessel, with a gentle heat, for twenty-four hours; then express the liquor, and set it aside until the fæces subside. Lastly, to the decanted liquor add the spirit.

Dub.

Take of

Squills, recently dried, half a pound;
Vinegar, three pints;
Proof-spirit, four ounces.

Macerate the squills in the vinegar for four days, in a glass vessel, frequently agitating it; then express the acid; to

which, poured from the fæces after they have subsided, add the spirit.

VINEGAR of squills is a medicine of great antiquity. It is a very powerful stimulant; and hence it is frequently used, with great success, as a diuretic and expectorant. The dose of this medicine is from a drachm to half an ounce; where crudities abound in the first passages, it may be given at first in a larger dose, to evacuate them by vomiting. It is most conveniently exhibited along with cinnamon, or other agreeable aromatic waters, which prevent the nausea it would otherwise, even in small doses, be apt to occasion.

ACETUM COLCHICI. *Lond.*
Vinegar of Meadow Saffron.

Take of

Fresh root of meadow saffron, sliced, one ounce;
Acetic acid, one pint;
Proof-spirit, one fluidounce.

Macerate the root with the vinegar, in a corked glass bottle, for twenty-four hours; then express the liquor, and set it at rest to settle; lastly, add the spirit to the defæcated liquor.

This is substituted for the oxymel of the former edition of the London Pharmacopœia, and appears to be a more convenient form. It is said to be powerfully diuretic.

ACIDUM ACETICUM CAMPHORATUM. *Dub.*
Camphorated Acetic Acid.

Take of

Acetic acid, six ounces by measure;
Camphor, half an ounce;
Rectified spirit, a sufficient quantity.

Reduce the camphor to powder, by means of the spirit; then add the acid and dissolve.

ACIDUM ACETOSUM CAMPHORATUM. *Ed.*
Camphorated Acetous Acid.

Take of

Stronger acetous acid, six ounces;
Camphor, half an ounce;

Triturate the camphor with a little alcohol; add it to the acid and dissolve.

THE alcohol in this preparation is used merely to facilitate the reduction of the camphor to powder; for the strong acetous, or, as we would rather call it, the acetic acid, is capable

of dissolving even a larger proportion of camphor than is directed in the above formula.

This solution is a powerful analeptic remedy. Its vapour, snuffed up the nostrils, which is the only method of using it, is one of the most pungent stimuli we possess. It is so extremely volatile and corrosive, that it is difficult to preserve, except in glass phials, with ground glass stoppers, or in small gold boxes, such as are used for Henry's aromatic spirit of vinegar, for which it is in fact an officinal substitute.

CHAP. XXXI.—TINCTURES.

THE term Tincture has often been employed in a very vague sense. It is now commonly applied to solutions, made by infusion or digestion, in alcohol, or diluted alcohol. But it is also, though perhaps incorrectly, extended to solutions in ether, ethereal spirits, and spirit of ammonia.

Alcohol is capable of dissolving resins, gum resins, extractive, tannin, sugar, volatile oils, soaps, camphor, adipocere, colouring matters, acids, alkalies, and some compound salts. Many of these, as the gum resins, soaps, extractive, tannin, sugar, and saline substances, are also soluble in water, while water is capable of dissolving substances, such as gum, gelatin and most of the compound salts, which are insoluble in alcohol. But the insolubility of these substances in the different menstrua is not absolute, but merely relative; for a certain proportion of alcohol may be added to a solution of gum in water without decomposing it; and a solution of resin in alcohol will bear a certain admixture of water without becoming turbid. Therefore, diluted alcohol, which is a mixture of these two menstrua, sometimes extracts the virtues of heterogeneous compounds more completely than either of them separately.

Alcohol is used as a menstruum,

1. When the solvent is not soluble, or is only sparingly soluble in water.
2. When a watery solution of the solvent is extremely perishable.
3. When the use of alcohol is indicated as well as that of the solvent.

In making alcoholic tinctures, we must observe that the virtues of recent vegetable matters are very imperfectly extracted