

CHAP. XXXIII.

AMMONIATED OR VOLATILE TINCTURES.

AMMONIA, like ether, is so powerful an agent on the living system, that we think it gives a peculiar character to the compositions into which it enters. They are all highly stimulating and pungent, and apt to excite diaphoresis. As ammonia exerts considerable and peculiar powers as a solvent, these tinctures must never be combined in prescription with any thing acid, which would not only neutralize the ammonia, and destroy its peculiar action on the living system, but would precipitate whatever was dissolved by its agency. In prescribing these ammoniated tinctures, the practitioner must attend to the very great increase of strength in the ammoniated alcohol of the London College, being not less, according to Mr Phillips, than as five to one.

LINIMENTUM CAMPHORÆ COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*
Compound Camphor Liniment.

Take of

Camphor, two ounces;
Water of ammonia, six fluidounces;
Spirit of lavender, a pint.

Mix the water of ammonia with the spirit; and distil from a glass retort, with a slow fire, one pint. Then dissolve the camphor in the distilled liquor.

THIS is more pungent and penetrating than the solution of camphor in alcohol. Is the distillation necessary to get an ammoniated alcohol without water? Probably. Mr Phillips, dreading the extreme causticity of the *Aqua ammonia* of the present Pharmacopœia, proposes the substitution of an equivalent quantity of subcarbonate of ammonia.

TINCTURA CASTOREI COMPOSITA. *Ed.*
Compound Tincture of Castor.

Take of

Russian castor, in powder, one ounce;
Assafœtida, half an ounce;
Ammoniated alcohol, one pound.

Digest for seven days, and filter through paper.

THIS composition is a medicine of real efficacy, particularly in hysterical disorders, and the several symptoms which accompany them. The spirit here used is an excellent menstruum, both for the castor and the assafœtida, and greatly adds to their virtues.

TINCTURA CINCHONÆ AMMONIATA. *Lond.*
Ammoniated Tincture of Cinchona.

Take of

Lance-leaved cinchona bark in powder, four ounces ;
Aromatic spirit of ammonia, two pints.

Macerate for ten days and strain.

THIS is now first introduced by the London college. It does not appear to be a very judicious preparation, or at least it can only act as a modification of ammoniated alcohol, for the cinchona cannot be supposed to contribute at all to its effects.

TINCTURA GUAIACI AMMONIATA. *Ed. Dub.*
Ammoniated Tincture of Guaiac.

Take of

Resin of guaiac, in powder, four ounces ;
Ammoniated alcohol, one pound and a half (one pint and a half, *Dub.*).

Digest for seven days, and filter through paper.

Lond.

Take of

Guaiac, in powder, four ounces ;
Aromatic spirit of ammonia, one pint and a half.

Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

THESE are very elegant and efficacious tinctures ; the ammoniated spirit readily dissolving the resin, and, at the same time, promoting its medicinal virtue. In rheumatic cases, a tea, or even table, spoonful, taken every morning and evening, in any convenient vehicle, particularly in milk, has proved of singular service.

TINCTURA OPII AMMONIATA ; olim ELIXIR PAREGORICUM. *Ed.*
Ammoniated Tincture of Opium, formerly Paregoric Elixir.

Take of

Benzoic acid,
English saffron, sliced, of each three drachms ;
Opium, two drachms ;

Volatile oil of aniseed, half a drachm ;
Ammoniated alcohol, sixteen ounces.

Digest for seven days, in a close vessel, and filter through paper.

THIS is a preparation of considerable efficacy in many spasmodic diseases, as chincough, &c. the ammonia removing the spasm immediately, while the opium tends to prevent its return. Each drachm contains about a grain of opium.

TINCTURA VALERIANÆ AMMONIATA. *Lond.*
Ammoniated Tincture of Valerian.

Take of

Valerian root, four ounces ;

Aromatic spirit of ammonia, two pints.

Macerate for fourteen days, and strain.

Dub.

Take of

Valerian root, in powder, two ounces.

Spirit of ammonia, one pint.

Digest for seven days, and filter.

THE spirit of ammonia, both simple and compound, is here an excellent menstruum, and, at the same time, considerably promotes the virtues of the valerian, which, in some cases, wants assistance of this kind. The dose may be a tea-spoonful or two.

CHAP. XXXIV.—MEDICATED WINES.

PARMENTIER has occupied thirty-two pages of the *Annales de Chimie*, to prove that wine is an extremely bad menstruum for extracting the virtues of medical substances. His only argument is, that, by the infusion of vegetable substances in wine, its natural tendency to decomposition is so much accelerated, that at the end of the process, instead of wine, we have only a liquor containing the elements of bad vinegar. As a solvent, diluted alcohol perfectly supersedes the use of wine ; and if we wish to use wine to cover the taste, or to assist the operation of any medicine, M. Parmentier proposes,