

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.

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#### 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,

that a tincture of the substance should be extemporaneously mixed with wine as a vehicle.

Notwithstanding this argument appears to us to have great weight, we shall give to the medicated wines, retained in the pharmacopœias, the characters they still generally possess.

VINUM ALOES SOCOTORINÆ; vulgo TINCTURA SACRA. *Ed.*  
*Wine of Socotorine Aloes, commonly called Sacred Tincture.*

Take of

Socotorine aloes, in powder, one ounce;  
Lesser cardamom seeds, bruised,  
Ginger, bruised, each one drachm;  
Spanish white wine, two pounds.

Digest for seven days, stirring now and then, and afterwards strain.

VINUM ALOES. *Dub.*  
*Wine of Aloes.*

Take of

Socotorine aloes, four ounces;  
Canella alba, one ounce;  
Spanish white wine, three pints;  
Proof-spirit, one pint.

Powder the aloes and canella alba separately; then mix and pour on the wine, mixed with the spirit; afterwards digest for fourteen days, frequently shaking the vessel; and, lastly, filter the liquor.

*Lond.*

Take of

Socotorine aloes, eight ounces;  
Canella alba, two ounces;  
Wine, six pints;  
Proof-spirit, two pints.

Triturate the aloes with white sand washed clean, to powder; also powder the canella, and pour the wine and spirit upon these powders mixed together. Macerate for fourteen days, now and then shaking them; and strain.

THE sand is added to facilitate the pulverization of the aloes, and to prevent it, when moistened by the fluids, from running together into masses. It is evident, that it does not affect the tincture.

This medicine has long been in great esteem, not only as a cathartic, but likewise as a stimulus.

It appears from long experience to be a very useful medicine. The dose, as a purgative, is from one to two ounces. It may be introduced into the habit, so as to be productive of excellent effects, as an alterant, by giving it in small doses, at proper intervals. Thus managed, it does not for a considerable time operate remarkably by stool; but at length proves purgative, and occasions a lax habit, of much longer continuance than that produced by the other common cathartics.

VINUM GENTIANÆ COMPOSITUM; vulgo VINUM AMARUM. *Ed.*  
*Compound Wine of Gentian, commonly called Bitter Wine.*

Take of

Gentian root, half an ounce;  
Cinchona bark, one ounce;  
Seville orange-peel, dried, two drachms;  
Canella alba, one drachm;  
Diluted alcohol, four ounces;  
Spanish white wine, two pounds and a half.

First pour the diluted alcohol on the root and barks, sliced and bruised, and, after twenty-four hours, add the wine; then macerate for seven days, and strain.

THIS wine, which is a pleasant bitter, is intended as a substitute for the old *Tinctura ad Stomachicos*. Wines of this kind are sometimes introduced at the tables of epicures in Italy, to assist the stomach in digestion.

VINUM IPECACUANHÆ. *Lond. Dub.*  
*Wine of Ipecacuanha.*

Take of

The root of ipecacuan, bruised, two ounces;  
Spanish white wine, two pints.

Digest seven days, (macerate for fourteen days, *Lond.*), and strain.

*Ed.*

Take of

Ipecacuan, bruised, one ounce;  
Spanish white wine, fifteen ounces.

Macerate for seven days, and filter through paper.

BOTH these wines are very mild and safe emetics, and equally serviceable, in dysenteries, with the ipecacuanha in substance, this root yielding nearly all its virtues to the Spanish white wine. The common dose is an ounce, more or less, according to the age and strength of the patient.

VINUM NICOTIANÆ TABACI. *Ed.*  
*Tobacco Wine.*

Take of

The dried leaves of tobacco, one ounce;  
Spanish white wine, one pound.

Macerate for seven days, and strain the liquor through paper.

WINE seems to extract more fully the active principles of the tobacco than either water or spirit taken separately.

VINUM OPII. *Lond.*  
*Wine of Opium.*

Take of

Extract of opium, one ounce ;  
Cinnamon, bruised,  
Cloves, bruised, of each one drachm ;  
Wine, one pint.

Macerate for eight days, and filter.

THIS is the Tinctura Thebaica of the Dispensatory 1745 ; the Laudanum Liquidum of Hoffman, which has continued to be popular, notwithstanding its exclusion from the late Pharmacopœias. Mr Ware, in particular, considers it as superior to every other solution of opium as an application in chronic inflammation of the eyes : and, with the same intention, it is sometimes used when inspissated by spontaneous evaporation.

VINUM RHEI PALMATI. *Ed.*  
*Rhubarb Wine.*

Take of

Rhubarb, sliced, two ounces ;  
Canella alba, bruised, one drachm ;  
Diluted alcohol, two ounces ;  
Spanish white wine, fifteen ounces.

Macerate for seven days, and strain through paper.

THIS is a warm, cordial, laxative medicine. It is used chiefly in weakness of the stomach and bowels, and some kinds of loosenesses, for evacuating the offending matter, and strengthening the tone of the viscera. It may be given in doses of from half a spoonful to three or four spoonfuls or more, according to the circumstances of the disorder, and the strength of the patient.

VINUM VERATRI. *Lond.*  
*Wine of White Hellebore.*

Take of

White hellebore root sliced, eight ounces ;  
 Wine, two pints and a half.

Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.

THIS preparation is now introduced, we are told by Dr Powell, "because it is a medicine usefully and extensively employed in practice." This must be understood as applying only to London, for it is not yet known in Edinburgh, although there can be no doubt of its activity.

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CHAP. XXXV.—EXTRACTS AND RESINS.

EXTRACT, in pharmacy, has long been used, in the common and true acceptation of the term, to express a thing extracted, and therefore it was applied to substances of all kinds which were extracted from heterogeneous bodies, by the action of any menstruum, and again reduced to a consistent form, by the evaporation of that menstruum. Lately, however, Extract has been used in a different and much more limited sense, as the name for a peculiar principle, which is often indeed contained in extracts, and which before had no proper appellation. It is in the former sense that we employ it here, and in which we wish it to be only used, while a new word should be invented as the name of the new substance. Till a better be proposed, we shall call it *Extractive*.

The London college have also added to the confusion in their last edition, by applying the term extract to what are commonly called inspissated juices, where no menstruum is employed.

Extracts are of various kinds, according to the nature of the substances from which they are obtained, and the menstruum employed: but they commonly consist of gum, sugar, extractive, tannin, cinchonin, gallic acid, or resin, or several of them mixed in various proportions. The menstrea most commonly employed are water and alcohol. The former is capable of extracting all the substances enumerated, except the resin, and the latter all except the gum. Wine is also sometimes employed, but very improperly; for as a solvent it can only act as a mixture of alcohol and water, and the principles which it leaves behind, on evaporation, are rather injurious than of advantage to the extract.