

gummy resins as stand in need of it to give them an apparent degree of purity, should not be admitted into the shop of the apothecary. Besides, many of the impurities which they usually contain are easily separated, in compounding the preparations or extemporaneous prescriptions into which they enter.

STYRAX PURIFICATA. *Lond.*

Purified Storax.

Dissolve storax in rectified spirit of wine, and filter; afterwards reduce the balsam to a proper thickness, by distilling off the spirit with a gentle heat.

Dub.

Digest the storax in water, with a low heat, until it get soft; then express it between iron plates, heated with boiling water; and, lastly, separate it from the water.

STORAX is a balsam, or combination of resin and benzoic acid, both of which are soluble in alcohol, and neither of them volatile in the heat necessary for evaporating alcohol. The London process for purifying it is therefore not liable to any chemical objections. The method now directed by the Dublin college is certainly more economical, but must be attended with loss of benzoic acid.

CHAP. XXXVI.—POWDERS.

THIS form is proper for such materials only as are capable of being sufficiently dried to become pulverizable, without the loss of their virtue. There are several substances, however, of this kind, which cannot be conveniently taken in powder; bitter, acrid, fetid drugs are too disagreeable; emollient and mucilaginous herbs and roots are too bulky; pure gums cohere, and become tenacious in the mouth; fixed alkaline salts deliquesce when exposed to the air; and volatile alkalies exhale. Many of the aromatics, too, suffer a great loss of their odorous principles when kept in powder, as in that form they expose a much larger surface to the air.

The dose of powders, in extemporaneous prescription, is generally about half a drachm; it rarely exceeds a whole drachm; and is not often less than a scruple. Substances

which produce powerful effects in small doses are not exhibited in this form, unless their bulk be increased by additions of less efficacy; those which require to be given in larger ones are better fitted for other forms.

The most useful vehicle for taking the lighter powders, is any agreeable thin liquid. The ponderous powders, particularly those prepared from metallic substances, require a more consistent vehicle, as syrups; for from thin ones they soon subside. Resinous substances, likewise, are most commodiously taken in thick liquors; for in thin ones they are apt to run into lumps, which are not easily diffused.

IN PULVEREM TRITI. *Dub.*

Powders.

Substances to be powdered, previously dried, are to be pulverized in an iron-mortar. The powder is then to be separated, by shaking it through an hair-sieve, and is to be kept in close vessels.

PULVIS ALOES CUM CANELLA. *Dub.*

Powder of Aloes with Canella.

Take of

Hepatic aloes, one pound;

White canella, three ounces.

Powder them separately, and then mix them.

THIS was formerly well known by the title of *Hiera Picra*. The spicy canella acts as a corrigent to the aloes, but the compound is more adapted to the form of pills, than of powder.

PULVIS ALOES CUM GUAIACO. *Dub.*

Powder of Aloes with Guaiac.

Take of

Hepatic aloes, one ounce and a half;

Gum guaiacum, one ounce;

Aromatic powder, half an ounce.

Rub the aloes and gum guaiacum separately to powder; then mix them with the aromatic powder.

PULVIS ALOES COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*

Compound Powder of Aloes.

Take of

Socotorine aloes, one ounce and a half;

Gum-resin guaiac, one ounce;

Compound powder of cinnamon, half an ounce.

Powder the aloes and guaiac separately; then mix the compound powder of cinnamon with them.

THIS powder is supposed to combine the sudorific effects of the guaiac with the purgative of the aloes.

PULVIS AROMATICUS. *Dub.*
Aromatic Powder.

Take of

Cinnamon, two ounces;
Smaller cardamom seeds, husked,
Ginger,
Long pepper, of each one ounce-

Rub them together to a powder.

Ed.

Take of

Cinnamon,
Smaller cardamom seeds,
Ginger, each equal parts.

Reduce them to a very fine powder, which is to be kept in a glass vessel, well closed.

PULVIS CINNAMOMI COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*
Compound Powder of Cinnamon.

Take of

Cinnamon bark, two ounces;
Cardamom seeds, an ounce and a half;
Ginger, one ounce;
Long pepper, half an ounce;

Reduce them together to a very fine powder.

THESE compositions are agreeable, hot, and spicy, and may be usefully taken in cold phlegmatic habits, and decayed constitutions, for warming the stomach, promoting digestion, and strengthening the tone of the viscera. The dose is from ten grains to a scruple and upwards. The first and third are considerably the warmest, from the long pepper which they contain.

PULVIS ASARI COMPOSITUS. *Ed.*
Compound Powder of Asarabacca.

Take of

The leaves of asarabacca, three parts;
————— marjoram,

Flowers of lavender, of each one part.

Rub them together to powder.

Dub.

Take of

Dried leaves of asarabacca, one ounce ;

Lavender flowers, two drachms.

Powder them together.

THESE are agreeable and efficacious errhines, and superior to most of those usually sold under the name of *herb snuff*. They are often employed with great advantage in cases of obstinate headach, and of ophthalmia resisting other modes of cure. Taken under the form of snuff, to the extent of five or six grains, at bed-time, they will operate the succeeding day as a powerful errhine, inducing frequent sneezing, and likewise a copious discharge from the nose. It is, however, necessary, during their operation, to avoid exposure to cold.

PULVIS CARBONATIS CALCIS COMPOSITUS; olim PULVIS CRE-
TACEUS. *Ed.*

*Compound Powder of Carbonate of Lime, formerly Chalk
Powder.*

Take of

Prepared carbonate of lime, four ounces ;

Nutmeg, half a drachm ;

Cinnamon, one drachm and a half.

Reduce them together to powder.

PULVIS CRETÆ COMPOSITUS, *Lond.*

Compound Powder of Chalk.

Take of

Prepared chalk, half a pound ;

Cinnamon bark, four ounces ;

Tormentil root,

Gum arabic, of each three ounces ;

Long pepper, half an ounce.

Reduce them separately to a very fine powder, and mix them.

THE addition of the aromatic coincides with the general intention of the remedy, which is indicated in weakness and acidity of the stomach, and in looseness from acidity.

PULVIS CRETÆ COMPOSITUS CUM OPIO. *Lond.*

Compound Powder of Chalk with Opium.

Take of

Compound powder of chalk, six ounces and a half ;

Hard opium, in powder, four scruples.

Mix them.

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THE addition of the opium renders this a more powerful remedy than the carbonate of lime alone, especially where the diarrhœa proceeds from irritation of the intestinal canal.

PULVIS CONTRAYERVÆ COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*

Compound Powder of Contrayerva.

Take of

Contrayerva root, in powder, five ounces ;

Prepared oyster-shells, one pound and a half.

Mix them.

THIS medicine has a very good claim to the title of an alexipharmic and sudorific. The contrayerva, by itself proves very serviceable in low fevers, where the vis vitæ is weak, and a diaphoresis to be promoted. It is probable that the carbonate of lime is of no farther service than to divide this active ingredient, and make it sit more easily on the stomach.

PULVIS IPECACUANHÆ ET OPII. *Ed.*

Powder of Ipecacuan and Opium.

Take of

Ipecacuan, in powder,

Opium, of each one part ;

Sulphate of potass, eight parts.

Triturate them together into a fine powder.

PULVIS IPECACUANHÆ COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*

Compound Powder of Ipecacuan.

Take of

Ipecacuan root, in powder,

Hard opium, in powder, each one drachm ;

Sulphate of potass, in powder, one ounce.

Mix them.

THE sulphate of potass, from the grittiness of its crystals, is perhaps better fitted for tearing and dividing the tenacious opium than any other salt ; this seems to be its only use in the preparation. The operator ought to be careful that the opium and ipecacuanha be equally diffused through the whole mass of powder, otherwise different portions of powder must differ in degree of strength.

This powder is one of the most certain sudorifics, and as such was recommended by Dr Dover, as an effectual remedy in rheumatism. Modern practice confirms its reputation, not only in rheumatism, but also in dropsy, and several other

diseases, where it is often difficult, by other means, to produce a copious sweat. The dose is from five to twenty grains, according as the patient's stomach and strength can bear it. It is proper to avoid much drinking immediately after taking it, otherwise it is very apt to be rejected by vomiting before any other effects are produced.

PULVIS JALAPÆ COMPOSITUS. Ed.

Compound Powder of Jalap.

Take of

Jalap root, in powder, one part;

Supertartrate of potass, two parts.

Grind them together to a very fine powder.

THE use of the tartrate in this preparation is to break down and divide the jalap; and therefore they are directed to be triturated together, and not separately.

PULVIS KINO COMPOSITUS. Lond.

Compound Powder of Kino.

Take of

Kino, fifteen drachms;

Cinnamon, half an ounce;

Hard opium, one drachm.

Reduce them separately to a very fine powder, then mix them.

THIS, though well known in extemporaneous prescription, is a new officinal preparation, and one which promises to be convenient. It is anodyne and astringent, containing one part of opium in twenty.

PULVIS OPIATUS. Ed.

Opiate Powder.

Take of

Opium, one part;

Prepared carbonate of lime, nine parts.

Rub them together to a fine powder.

PULVIS CORNU CERVI CUM OPIO. Lond.

Powder of Hartshorn with Opium.

Take of

Hard opium, in powder, one drachm;

Hartshorn, burnt and prepared, one ounce;

Cochineal, in powder, one drachm.

IN these powders, the opium is the active ingredient; and

it is immaterial whether the phosphate or carbonate of lime be used to facilitate its mechanical division.

PULVIS SCAMMONEÆ COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*
Compound Powder of Scammony.

Take of

Scammony,

Hard extract of jalap, of each two ounces;

Ginger, half an ounce.

Reduce them separately, to a very fine powder, and mix them.

PULVIS SCAMMONII. *Ed.*
Powder of Scammony.

Take of

Scammony,

Supertartrate of potass, equal parts.

Rub them together to a very fine powder.

In the first of these compositions, the scammony is combined with another purgative little less active than itself, and in the other with one much less so; which difference must be attended to in prescription. The ginger is an useful addition, and will render it less apt to gripe.

PULVIS SENNÆ COMPOSITUS. *Lond.*
Compound Powder of Senna.

Take of

Senna leaves,

Supertartrate of potass, of each two ounces;

Scammony, half an ounce;

Ginger, two drachms.

Triturate the scammony by itself, reduce the rest together into a very fine powder, and then mix.

This powder is given as a cathartic, in the dose of two scruples, or a drachm. The scammony is used as a stimulus to the senna; the quantity of the latter necessary for a dose, when not assisted by some more powerful substance, being too bulky to be conveniently taken in this form. The ginger is added to make it sit easier on the stomach, and gripe less.

PULVIS SULPHATIS ALUMINÆ COMPOSITUS; olim PULVIS STYPTICUS. *Ed.**Compound Powder of Sulphate of Alumine, formerly Styptic Powder.*

Take of

Sulphate of alumine, four parts;

Kino, one part.

Rub them together to a fine powder.

THIS powder is composed of two very powerful astringents, but which we believe are not combined with propriety; at least it is certain that a solution of alum is decomposed by a solution of kino.

PULVIS TRAGACANTHE COMPOSITUS. *Lond.**Compound Powder of Tragacanth.*

Take of

Tragacanth, powdered,

Gum arabic, powdered,

Starch, of each one ounce and a half;

Refined sugar, three ounces.

Powder the starch and sugar together; then add the tragacanth and gum arabic, and mix.

THIS composition is a mild emollient; and hence becomes serviceable in hectic cases, tickling coughs, strangury, some kinds of alvine fluxes, and other disorders proceeding from a thin acrimonious state of the excreted fluids, or an abrasion of the mucus of the intestines; it is supposed to soften, and give a greater degree of consistency to the former, and defend the latter from being irritated or excoriated by them. All the ingredients coincide in these general intentions. The dose is from half a drachm to two or three drachms, which may be frequently repeated.

 CHAP. XXXVII.—CONSERVES, ELECTUARIES, AND CONFECTIONS.

CONSERVES are compositions of recent vegetable matters, and sugar, beaten together into an uniform mass.