

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 TRAGACANTHÆ 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.

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

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

This process is introduced for preserving certain simples, undried, in an agreeable form, with as little alteration as possible in their native virtues; and in some cases it is very advantageous. Vegetables, whose virtues are lost or destroyed in drying, may in this form be kept uninjured for a considerable time; for by carefully securing the mouth of the containing vessel, the alteration, as well as dissipation, of their active principles, is generally prevented; and the sugar preserves them from the corruption which juicy vegetables would otherwise undergo.

The sugar should be pounded by itself, and passed through a sieve, before it be mixed with the vegetable mass; for without this it cannot be properly incorporated. Rose buds, and some other vegetables, are prepared for mixing with the sugar, by grinding them in a small wooden mill, contrived for that purpose.

There are, however, vegetables whose virtues are impaired by this treatment. Mucilaginous substances, by lying long with sugar, become less glutinous; and astringents sensibly become softer upon the palate. Many of the fragrant flowers are of so tender and delicate a texture, as almost entirely to lose their peculiar qualities on being beaten or bruised.

In general, it is obvious, that in this form, on account of the large proportion of sugar, only substances of considerable activity can be taken with advantage as medicines. And, indeed, conserves are at present considered chiefly as auxiliaries to medicines of greater efficacy, or as intermediums for joining them together. They are very convenient for reducing into bolusses or pills the more ponderous powders, as submuriate of mercury, the oxides of iron, and other mineral preparations; which, with liquid or less consistent matters, as syrups, will not cohere.

The shops were formerly encumbered with many conserves, altogether insignificant; the few now retained have in general either an agreeable flavour to recommend them, or are capable of answering some useful purposes, as medicines. Their common dose is the bulk of a nutmeg, or as much as can be taken up at once or twice upon the point of a knife. There is, in general, no great danger of exceeding in the dose.

ELECTUARIES are composed chiefly of powders mixed up with syrups, &c. into such a consistence, that the mass shall neither be too stiff to swallow, nor so thin as to allow the powders to separate, and that a dose may be easily taken up on the point of a knife.

Electuaries are chiefly composed of the milder alterative medicines, and such as are not ungrateful to the palate. The more powerful drugs, as cathartics, emetics, opiates, and the like, (except in officinal electuaries to be dispensed by weight), are seldom exhibited in this form, on account of the uncertainty of the dose; unpleasant ones, acrids, bitters, fetids, cannot be conveniently taken in it; nor is the form of an electuary well fitted for the more ponderous substances, as mercurials, these being apt to subside on keeping, unless the composition be made very stiff.

The lighter powders require thrice their weight of honey, or of syrup boiled to the thickness of honey, to make them into the consistence of an electuary; of syrups of the common consistence, twice the weight of the powder is sufficient.

Where common syrups are employed, the compound is apt to candy and dry too soon: electuaries of Peruvian bark, for instance, made up with syrup alone, will often in a day or two grow too dry for use. This is owing to the crystallization of the sugar. Deyeux, therefore, advises electuaries, confections, and conserves, to be made up with syrups, from which all the crystallizable parts have been separated. For this purpose, the syrups, after being sufficiently evaporated, are to be exposed to the heat of a stove as long as they form any crystals. What remains, probably from the presence of some vegetable acid, has no tendency to crystallize, and is to be decanted and evaporated to a proper consistence. In hospital practice, the same object may be obtained much more easily by using molasses instead of syrups, and in private practice, by the substitution of a little conserve.

The quantity of an electuary directed at a time in extemporaneous prescription varies much, according to its constituent parts; but is rarely less than the size of a nutmeg, or more than two or three ounces.

CONFECTIO AMYGDALARUM.  *Lond.*

*Confection of Almonds.*

Take of

Sweet almonds, one ounce;  
Gum arabic, in powder, one drachm;  
Refined sugar, half an ounce.

Having first blanched the almonds, by macerating them in water, and peeling them, beat the whole ingredients into a homogeneous mass.

By triturating this confection with water, we immediately form an almond emulsion, which on many occasions is desira-

ble, as it takes a considerable time to make from the unmixed materials, and soon spoils after it is made.

CONFECTIO AURANTIORUM. *Lond.*

*Confection of Orange-peel.*

Take of

Fresh orange-peel, grated off, one pound ;  
Refined sugar, three pounds.

Bruise the peel in a stone mortar with a wooden pestle ;  
then, adding the sugar, beat them into a homogeneous mass.

CONSERVA AURANTII. *Dub.*

*Conserve of Orange-peel.*

To the fresh rind of Seville oranges, grated off, add three times its weight of refined sugar, while beating it.

CONSERVA CITRI AURANTII. *Ed.*

*Conserve of Orange peel.*

Grate off the rind of Seville oranges, beat it into pulp, and while beating it, add gradually three times its weight of double refined sugar.

CONFECTIO ROSÆ CANINÆ. *Lond.*

*Confection of Hips.*

Take of

Pulp of hips, one pound ;  
Refined sugar, in powder, twenty ounces.

Expose the pulp to a gentle heat, in a water-bath, then gradually add the sugar, and beat them into a homogeneous mass.

CONSERVA ROSÆ CANINÆ. *Ed.*

*Conserve of Hips.*

Beat ripe hips, carefully cleaned from the seeds and down, to a pulp ; and, while beating it, gradually add three times its weight of double refined sugar.

CONFECTIO ROSÆ GALLICÆ. *Lond.*

*Confection of Red Roses.*

Take of

Red rose buds, with the heels cut off, one pound ;  
Refined sugar, three pounds.

Beat the petals in a stone mortar ; then add the sugar, and reduce the whole to a homogeneous mass.

CONSERVA ROSÆ. *Dub.**Conserve of Red Roses.*

Pluck the petals of red rose buds from the calyces; and having cut off the heels, beat them, gradually adding three times their weight of refined sugar.

CONSERVA ROSÆ GALLICÆ. *Ed.**Conserve of Red Roses.*

Beat the petals of red rose buds to pulp; and add, during the beating, three times their weight of double refined sugar.

LA GRANGE says, that by infusing the red rose leaves in four times their weight of water, and squeezing them out of the infusion, they lose their bitterness, and are more easily reduced to a pulp, which he then mixes with a thick syrup, prepared by dissolving the sugar in the expressed liquor, and boiling it down to the consistence of an electuary.

It is scarcely necessary to make any particular remarks on these conserves. Their taste and virtues are compounded of those of sugar, and the substance combined with it. The hips are acidulous and refrigerant, the orange rind bitter and stomachic, and the red rose buds astringent.

ELECTUARIUM AROMATICUM. *Ed.**Aromatic Electuary.*

Take of

Aromatic powder, one part;  
Syrup of orange-peel, two parts;  
Mix and beat them well together, so as to form an electuary.

*Dub.*

Take of

Cinnamon,  
Nutmeg, of each half an ounce;  
Refined sugar,  
Saffron, of each one ounce;  
Lesser cardamom seeds, husked,  
Cloves, each two drachms;  
Precipitated chalk, two ounces;  
Syrup of orange-peel, a sufficient quantity.  
Powder the aromatics separately, then mix them with the  
syrup.

CONFECTIO AROMATICA. *Lond.*  
*Aromatic Confection.*

Take of

Cinnamon bark,  
Nutmeg, of each two ounces;  
Cloves, one ounce;  
Cardamom seeds, half an ounce;  
Saffron, dried, two ounces;  
Prepared oyster shells, sixteen ounces;  
Refined sugar, powdered, two pounds;  
Water, one pint.

Reduce the dry substances together to a very fine powder, then gradually add the water, and mix them until they be incorporated.

THESE compositions are sufficiently grateful, and moderately warm. They are given in the form of a bolus, in doses of from five grains to a scruple, or upwards, as a cordial, or as a vehicle for more active substances. The simple composition of the Edinburgh college serves all these purposes as well as the complicated formula of the other colleges. Mr Phillips also very properly remarks, that in this composition, and indeed in every instance, prepared chalk might be advantageously substituted for oyster shells, as it is hardly possible to reduce the latter to so fine a powder as the former.

ELECTUARIUM CASSIÆ FISTULÆ. *Ed.*  
*Electuary of Cassia.*

Take of

Pulp of cassia fistularis, four parts;  
Pulp of tamarinds,  
Manna, each, one part;  
Syrup of pale roses, four parts.

Having beat the manna in a mortar, dissolve with a gentle heat in the syrup; then add the pulps, and evaporate with a regularly continued heat to a proper consistence.

ELECTUARIUM CASSIÆ. *Dub.*  
*Electuary of Cassia.*

Take of

The fresh extracted pulp of cassia, half a pound;  
Manna, two ounces;  
Pulp of tamarinds, one ounce;  
Syrup of orange-peel, half a pound.

Dissolve the manna, bruised, with a moderate heat in the

syrup; then add the pulps; and evaporate slowly the mixture to a proper thickness.

CONFECTIO CASSIÆ.  *Lond.*

*Confection of Cassia.*

Take of

Fresh cassia pulp, half a pound;

Manna, two ounces;

Tamarind pulp, one ounce;

Syrup of roses, half a pint.

Bruise the manna; then dissolve it in the syrup, by the heat of a water-bath; lastly, mix in the pulps, and evaporate to a proper thickness.

THESE compositions are very convenient officinals, to serve as a basis for purgative electuaries, and other similar purposes. The tamarinds give them a pleasant acidity, and do not, as might be expected, dispose them to ferment. After standing for four months, the composition has been found no sourer than when first made. This electuary is usually taken by itself, to the quantity of two or three drachms occasionally, for gently loosening the belly in costive habits.

ELECTUARIUM CASSIÆ SENNÆ; olim ELECTUARIUM LENITIVUM.  *Ed.*

*Electuary of Senna, commonly called Lenitive Electuary.*

Take of

Senna, eight ounces;

Coriander seeds, four ounces;

Liquorice root, bruised, three ounces;

Figs,

Pulp of prunes, each one pound;

—— tamarinds, half a pound;

Refined sugar, two pounds and a half.

CONFECTIO SENNÆ.  *Lond.*

*Confection of Senna.*

Take of

Senna leaves, eight ounces;

Figs, one pound;

Pulp of tamarinds,

—— of cassia,

—— of prunes, each half a pound;

Coriander seeds, four ounces;

Liquorice root, three ounces;

Refined sugar, two pounds and a half.

(Powder the senna with the coriander seeds, and sift out ten ounces of the mixed powder; boil the remainder with the figs and liquorice in four pints of water to one half; express and strain the liquor, which is then to be evaporated to about a pint and a half; dissolve the sugar in it; add this syrup by degrees to the pulps; and, lastly, mix in the sifted powder. *Ed. Lond.*)

ELECTUARIUM SENNÆ. *Dub.*

*Electuary of Senna.*

Take of

Senna leaves, in very fine powder, four ounces;

Pulp of French prunes, one pound;

— tamarinds, two ounces;

Molasses, a pint and a half;

Essential oil of caraway, two drachms.

Boil the pulps in the syrup, to the thickness of honey: then add the powder, and, when the mixture cools, the oil; lastly, mix the whole intimately.

THIS electuary is a very convenient laxative, and has long been in common use among practitioners. Taken to the size of a nutmeg, or more, as occasion may require, it is an excellent laxative for loosening the belly in costive habits. The formula of the Dublin college is much more simple and elegant than the others. Mr Phillips also remarks, that the stalks of the senna, and the husks of the coriander seed, can add but little to the virtues of this compound; but since the decoction must be employed for the figs and liquorice root, it is no additional trouble to boil the stalks and husks along with them.

ELECTUARIUM MIMOSÆ CATECHU; olim CONFECTIO JAPONICA,  
*Ed.*

*Electuary of Catechu, commonly called Japonic Confection.*

Take of

Extract of mimosa catechu, four ounces;

Kino, three ounces;

Cinnamon,

Nutmeg, each one ounce;

Opium, diffused in a sufficient quantity of Spanish white wine, one drachm and a half.

Syrup of red roses, boiled to the consistence of honey, two pounds and a quarter.

Reduce the solids to powder; and having mixed them with the opium and syrup, make them into an electuary.

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ELECTUARIUM CATECHU COMPOSITUM. *Dub.**Compound Electuary of Catechu.*

Take of

- Catechu, four ounces ;  
 Cinnamon, two ounces ;  
 Kino, three ounces ; powder these, then add,  
 Hard purified opium, diffused in Spanish white wine, a  
 drachm and a half ;  
 Syrup of ginger, evaporated to the consistence of honey,  
 two pounds and a quarter.

Mix them.

THESE electuaries, which do not differ in any material particular, are extremely useful astringent medicines, and are often given in doses of a tea spoonful, frequently repeated, in cases of diarrhœa, &c. Ten scruples contain one grain of opium.

CONFECTIO SCAMMONEÆ. *Lond.**Confection of Scammony.*

Take of

- Scammony, in powder, one ounce and a half ;  
 Cloves, bruised,  
 Ginger, in powder, of each six drachms ;  
 Essential oil of caraway, half a fluidrachm ;  
 Syrup of roses, as much as is sufficient.

Reduce the dry substances together to a very fine powder ; add the syrup, and triturate them together ; lastly, add the oil of caraway, and mix the whole.

ELECTUARIUM SCAMMONII. *Dub.**Electuary of Scammony.*

Take of

- Scammony,  
 Ginger, of each, in powder, one ounce ;  
 Oil of cloves, one scruple ;  
 Syrup of orange-peel, what is sufficient.

Mix the powdered ginger with the syrup ; then add the scammony, and lastly the oil.

THIS electuary is a warm brisk purgative. A drachm contains ten grains of scammony.

ELECTUARIUM OPIATUM; olim ELECTUARIUM THEBAICUM.  
*Ed.*

*Opiate Electuary, commonly called Thebaic Electuary.*

Take of

Aromatic powder, six ounces;

Virginian snake-root, in fine powder, three ounces;

Opium, diffused in a sufficient quantity of Spanish white wine, half an ounce;

Syrup of ginger, one pound.

Mix them, and form an electuary.

CONFECTIO OPII. *Lond.*

*Confection of Opium.*

Take of

Hard opium, powdered, six drachms;

Long pepper, one ounce;

Ginger, two ounces;

Caraway seeds, three ounces;

Syrup, one pint.

Mix the opium with the syrup heated; then add the other ingredients, powdered, and mix.

THE action which these electuaries will produce on the living system, is abundantly apparent from the nature of their ingredients. They are combinations of aromatics with opium; one grain of opium being contained in thirty-six of the London confection, and in forty-three of the Edinburgh electuary.

CONFECTIO RUE. *Lond.*

*Confection of Rue.*

Take of

Rue leaves, dried,

Caraway seeds,

Laurel berries, of each an ounce and a half;

Sagapenum, half an ounce;

Black pepper, two drachms;

Clarified honey, sixteen ounces.

Triturate the dry substances to a very fine powder; then adding the honey, mix the whole.

THIS was long supposed to be a powerful antihysterical. Its use is now confined to glysters.