
 CHAP. XXXVIII.—TROCHES.

TROCHES and lozenges are composed of powders made up with glutinous substances into little cakes, and afterwards dried. This form is principally made use of for the more commodious exhibition of certain medicines, by fitting them to dissolve slowly in the mouth, so as to pass by degrees into the stomach, or to act upon the pharynx and top of the trachea; and hence these preparations have generally a considerable proportion of sugar, or other materials grateful to the palate. Some powders have likewise been reduced into troches, with a view to their preservation; though possibly for no very good reason; for the moistening, and afterwards drying them in the air, must rather tend to injure than to preserve them. The lozenges of the confectioner are so superior in elegance to those of the apothecary, that they are almost universally preferred; and hence it probably is that the Dublin and London colleges have entirely omitted them.

TROCHISCI CARBONATIS CALCIS. *Ed.**Troches of Carbonate of Lime.*

Take of

Carbonate of lime, prepared, four ounces;

Gum arabic, one ounce;

Nutmeg, one drachm;

Refined sugar, six ounces.

Powder them together, and form them with water into a mass for making troches.

THESE are used against acidity of the stomach, especially when accompanied with diarrhoea.

TROCHISCI GLYCYRRHIZÆ GLABRÆ. *Ed.**Troches of Liquorice.*

Take of

Extract of liquorice,

Gum arabic, each one part;

White sugar, two parts.

Dissolve them in warm water, and strain; then evaporate the solution over a gentle fire, till it be of a proper consistence for being formed into troches.

THESE are both agreeable pectorals, and may be used at pleasure in tickling coughs. The solution, and subsequent evaporation, of the extract of liquorice, directed by the Edinburgh college, is exceedingly troublesome, and apt to give the troches an empyreumatic flavour. They are more easily made, by reducing the liquorice also to powder, and mixing up the whole with rose-water. Refined extract of liquorice should be used; and it is easily powdered in the cold, after it has been laid for some days in a dry and rather warm place.

TROCHISCI GLYCYRRHIZÆ CUM OPIO. *Ed.*
Liquorice Troches with Opium.

Take of

Opium, two drachms;
Tincture of Tolu, half an ounce;
Common syrup, eight ounces;
Extract of liquorice, softened in warm water,
Gum arabic, in powder, of each five ounces.

Triturate the opium well with the tincture, then add by degrees the syrup and extract; afterwards gradually mix in the powdered gum arabic. Lastly, dry them so as to form a mass, to be divided into troches, each weighing ten grains.

THESE directions for preparing the above troches are so full and particular, that no further explanation is necessary; seven and a half contain about one grain of opium. These troches are medicines of approved efficacy in tickling coughs depending on irritation of the fauces. Besides the mechanical effect of the viscid matters in involving acrid humours, or lining and defending the tender membranes, the opium no doubt must have a considerable effect, by more immediately diminishing the irritability of the parts themselves.

TROCHISCI GUMMOSI. *Ed.*
Gum Troches.

Take of

Gum arabic, four parts;
Starch, one part;
Refined sugar, twelve parts.
Powder them, and make them into a proper mass with rose-water, so as to form troches.

THIS is a very agreeable pectoral, and may be used at pleasure. It is calculated for allaying the tickling in the throat which provokes coughing.

TROCHISCI NITRATIS POTASSÆ. *Ed.**Troches of Nitrate of Potass.*

Take of

Nitrate of potass, one part ;

Double refined sugar, three parts.

Rub together to powder, and form them, with mucilage of gum tragacanth, into a mass, to be divided into troches.

THIS is a very agreeable form for the exhibition of nitre ; though, when the salt is thus taken without any liquid, (if the quantity be considerable), it is apt to occasion uneasiness about the stomach, which can only be prevented by large dilution with aqueous liquors.

 CHAP. XXXIX.—PILLS.

THIS form is peculiarly adapted to those drugs which operate in a small dose, and whose nauseous and offensive taste or smell require them to be concealed from the palate.

Pills should have the consistence of a firm paste, a round form, and a weight not exceeding five grains. Essential oils may enter them in small quantity : deliquescent salts are improper. Efflorescent salts, such as carbonate of soda, should be previously exposed to the air until they fall to powder : deliquescent extracts should have some powder combined with them. The mass should be beaten until it become perfectly uniform and plastic. Powders may be made into pills with extracts, balsams, soap, mucilages, bread crumb, &c.

Gum-resins, and inspissated juices, are sometimes soft enough to be made into pills, without addition : where any moisture is requisite, spirit of wine is more proper than syrups or conserves, as it unites more readily with them, and does not sensibly increase their bulk. Light dry powders require syrups or mucilages : and the more ponderous, as the mercurial and other metallic preparations, thick honey, conserve, or extracts.

Light powders require about half their weight of syrup, or about three-fourths their weight of honey, to reduce them into a due consistence for forming pills. Half a drachm of the mass will make five or six pills of a moderate size.