

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.

Gums and inspissated juices are to be first softened with the liquid prescribed; the powders are then to be added, and the whole beat thoroughly together, till they be perfectly mixed.

The masses for pills are best kept in bladders, which should be moistened now and then with some of the same kind of liquid that the mass was made up with, or with some proper aromatic oil.

When the mass is to be divided into pills, a given weight of it is rolled out into a cylinder of a given length, and of an equal thickness throughout, and is then divided into a given number of equal pieces, by means of a simple machine. These pieces are then rounded between the fingers or by a machine; and to prevent them from adhering, they are covered either with starch, or powder of liquorice, or orris root. In Germany the powder of lycopodium is much used.

PILULÆ ALOETICÆ. *Ed.*
Aloetic Pills.

Take of

Aloes, in powder,

Soap, equal parts.

Beat them with simple syrup into a mass fit for making pills.

PILULÆ ALOES CUM ZINGIBERE. *Dub.*
Pills of Aloes and Ginger.

Take of

Hepatic aloes, one ounce;

Ginger root, in powder, one drachm;

Soap, half an ounce;

Essence of peppermint, half a drachm.

Powder the aloes with the ginger, then add the soap and the essence, so as to form an intimate mixture.

PILULÆ ALOES COMPOSITÆ. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Aloes.

Take of

Socotorine aloes, powdered, one ounce;

Extract of gentian, half an ounce;

Oil of caraway, forty minims;

Simple syrup, as much as is sufficient.

Beat them together into a homogeneous mass.

ALTHOUGH soap can scarcely be thought to facilitate the solution of the aloes in the stomach, as was supposed by Boerhaave and others, it is, probably, the most convenient sub-

stance that can be added, to give it the proper consistence for making pills. When extract of gentian is triturated with aloes, they re-act upon each other, and become too soft to form pills, so that the addition of any syrup to the mass, as directed by the London college, is perfectly unnecessary; unless, at the same time, some powder be added to give it consistency.

Aloetic pills are much used as warm and stomachic laxatives; they are very well suited for the costiveness so often attendant on people of sedentary lives, and, upon the whole, are one of the most useful articles in the materia medica.

PILULE ALOES ET ASSÆ FÆTIDÆ. *Ed.*

Pills of Aloes and Assafœtida.

Take of

Socotorine aloes, in powder,
Assafœtida,
Soap, equal parts.

Form them into a mass, with mucilage of gum arabic.

THESE pills, in doses of about ten grains, twice a-day, produce the most salutary effects in cases of dyspepsia, attended with flatulence and costiveness.

PILULE ALOES CUM COLOCYNTHIDÆ. *Ed.*

Pills of Aloes with Colocynth.

Take of

Socotorine aloes,
Scammony, of each eight parts;
Colocynth, four parts;
Oil of cloves,
Sulphate of potass with sulphur, of each one part.

Reduce the aloes and scammony into a powder, with the salt; then let the colocynth, beat into a very fine powder, and the oil be added: lastly, make it into a proper mass with mucilage of gum arabic.

PILULÆ COLOCYNTHIDIS COMPOSITÆ. *Dub.*

Compound Pills of Colocynth.

Take of

Pith of colocynth, half an ounce;
Hepatic aloes,
Scammony, each one ounce;
Castile soap, two drachms;
Oil of cloves, one drachm.

Powder the aloes, scammony, and colocynth, separately; then triturate them with the soap and the oil, and form them into a mass with simple syrup.

THIS is more powerful in its operation than the simpler aloetic pills.

PILULÆ ALOES ET MYRRHÆ. *Ed.*

Pills of Aloes and Myrrh.

Take of

Socotorine aloes, four parts;

Myrrh, two parts;

Saffron, one part.

Beat them into a mass with simple syrup.

Dub.

Take of

Hepatic aloes, one ounce;

Myrrh, half an ounce;

Saffron, in powder, two drachms;

Essential oil of caraway, half a drachm;

Syrup, a sufficient quantity.

Powder the aloes and myrrh separately, then mix the whole intimately together.

PILULÆ ALOES CUM MYRRHÆ. *Lond.*

Pills of Aloes with Myrrh.

Take of

Socotorine aloes, two ounces;

Myrrh,

Saffron, of each one ounce;

Simple syrup, as much as is sufficient.

Powder the aloes and myrrh separately; and afterwards beat all the ingredients together into a homogeneous mass.

THESE pills have long continued in practice, without any other alteration than in the syrup with which the mass is made up, and in the proportion of saffron. The virtues of this medicine may be easily understood from its ingredients. Given to the quantity of half a drachm, or two scruples, they prove considerably cathartic, but they answer much better purposes in smaller doses as laxatives or alteratives.

PILULÆ ASSÆ FÆTIDÆ COMPOSITÆ. *Ed.*
Compound Pills of Assafœtida.

PILULÆ MYRRHÆ COMPOSITÆ. *Dub.*
Compound Pills of Myrrh.

Take of

Assafœtida,
Galbanum,
Myrrh, each eight parts (one ounce, *Dub.*);
Rectified oil of amber, one part, (half a drachm, *Dub.*)
Beat them into a mass with simple syrup.

PILULÆ GALBANI COMPOSITÆ. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Galbanum.

Take of

Galbanum, one ounce ;
Myrrh,
Sagapenum, of each one ounce and a half ;
Assafœtida, half an ounce ;
Simple syrup, as much as is sufficient.
Beat them together into a homogeneous mass.

THESE pills are designed for antihysterics and emmenagogues, and are very well calculated for answering those intentions ; half a scruple, a scruple, or more, may be taken every night, or oftener. It is singular, that each of the colleges should have given them different names. The assafœtida is certainly the most powerful article.

PILULÆ CAMBOGIÆ COMPOSITÆ. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Gamboge.

Take of

Gamboge, in powder,
Socotorine aloes in powder,
Compound powder of cinnamon, of each one drachm ;
Soap, two drachms.

Mix the powders, then add the soap, and beat the whole into a homogeneous mass.

THIS is a very useful purgative pill, being considerably more active than aloes alone.

PILULÆ AMMONIARETI CUPRI. *Ed.*
Pills of Ammoniaret of Copper.

Take of

Ammoniaret of copper, in fine powder, sixteen grains ;
Bread crumb, four scruples ;

Water of carbonate of ammonia, as much as may be sufficient.

Beat them into a mass, to be divided into thirty-two equal pills.

EACH of these pills weighs about three grains, and contains somewhat more than half a grain of the ammoniacret of copper. They seem to be the best form of exhibiting this medicine.

PILULÆ FERRI COMPOSITE. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Iron.

Take of

Myrrh in powder, two drachms;
Subcarbonate of soda,
Sulphate of iron,
Sugar, of each one drachm.

Powder the myrrh with the subcarbonate of soda; then having added the sulphate of iron, rub them again; then beat the whole, mixed together, into a homogeneous mass.

THIS is Griffith's mixture in a solid form, and may often be convenient.

made in 60 pills

PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI. *Ed.*
Mercurial Pills.

Take of

Purified quicksilver,
Conserve of red roses, of each one ounce;
Starch, two ounces.

Triturate the quicksilver with the conserve, in a glass mortar, till the globules completely disappear, adding, occasionally, a little mucilage of gum arabic; then add the starch, and beat the whole with a little water into a mass, which is to be immediately divided into four hundred and eighty equal pills.

Lond. Dub.

Take of

Purified quicksilver, two drachms;
Confection of red roses, three drachms;
Liquorice root, powdered, one drachm;

Rub the quicksilver with the confection until the globules disappear; then, adding the liquorice powder, mix them together into a homogeneous mass.

THE common mercurial pill is one of the best preparations

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of mercury, and may, in general, supersede most other forms of this medicine. In this preparation the mercury is minutely divided, and, probably, converted into the black oxide. To effect its mechanical division, it must be triturated with some viscid substance. Soap, resin of guaiac, honey, extract of liquorice, manna, and conserve of roses, have all been, at different times, recommended. The soap and guaiac have been rejected on account of their being decomposed by the juices of the stomach: and the honey, because it was apt to gripe some people. With regard to the others, the grounds of selection are not well understood; perhaps the acid contained in the conserve of roses may contribute to the extinction of the mercury. The mercury is most easily known to be completely extinguished, if no globules appear, on rubbing a very little of the mass with the point of the finger on a piece of paper. As soon as this is the case, it is necessary to mix with the mass a proportion of some dry powder, to give it a proper degree of consistency. For this purpose, powder of liquorice root has been commonly used; but it is extremely apt to become mouldy, and to cause the pills to spoil. The Edinburgh college have, therefore, with great propriety, substituted for it starch, which is a very unalterable substance, and easily procured, at all times, in a state of purity. It is necessary to form the mass into pills immediately, as it soon becomes hard. One grain of mercury is contained in four grains of the Edinburgh mass, and in three of the London and Dublin. The dose of these pills must be regulated by circumstances; from two to six five-grain pills may be given daily.

PILULE HYDRARGYRI SUBMURIATIS COMPOSITÆ. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Submuriate of Mercury.

Take of

Submuriate of quicksilver,
 Precipitated sulphuret of antimony, of each one drachm;
 Guaiac, in powder, two drachms.

Triturate the submuriate with the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, and then with the guaiac; and add as much mucilage of gum arabic, as will give the mass a proper consistency.

THESE pills were recommended to the attention of the public, about forty years ago, by Dr Plummer, whose name they long bore. He represented them, in a paper which he published in the *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, as a very useful al-

terative; and on his authority they were at one time much employed; but they are now less extensively used than formerly.

PILULÆ SAPONIS CUM OPIO. *Lond.*

Pills of Soap with Opium.

Take of

Hard opium, in powder, half an ounce;
Hard soap, two ounces.

Beat them into a homogeneous mass.

PILULÆ STYRACE. *Dub.*

Storax Pills.

Take of

Purified storax, three drachms;
Soft purified opium,
Saffron, of each one drachm.

Beat them into an uniform mass.

PILULÆ OPIATÆ; olim PILULÆ THEBAICÆ. *Ed.*

Opiate, or Thebaic Pills.

Take of

Opium, one part;
Extract of liquorice, seven parts;
Jamaica pepper, two parts.

Soften the opium and extract separately with diluted alcohol; and having beat them into a pulp, mix them: then add the pepper reduced to a powder: and, lastly, having beat them well together, form the whole into a mass.

It is unfortunate that these compositions should differ so much in strength, the first containing one grain of opium in three, the second one in five, and the last only one grain of opium in ten of the mass. Under the idea that opium is to operate as a sedative, the addition of the pepper is somewhat injudicious. The title adopted by the Edinburgh college is ambiguous, as it may be mistaken for pills of opium, without any addition. That of the Dublin college is better, although it does not mention the only active ingredient, as it is often necessary to conceal from our patients that we are giving them opium, which both the name and smell of the storax enable us to do. But that of the London college is upon the whole perhaps the best.

PILULÆ RHEI COMPOSITÆ. *Ed.*
Compound Pills of Rhubarb.

Take of

Rhubarb, in powder, one ounce;
 Socotorine aloes, six drachms;
 Myrrh, half an ounce;
 Volatile oil of peppermint, half a drachm.

Make them into a mass, with syrup of orange-peel.

THIS pill is intended for moderately warming and strengthening the stomach, and gently opening the belly. A scruple of the mass may be taken twice a-day.

PILULÆ SCILLÆ COMPOSITÆ. *Lond.*
Compound Pills of Squill.

Take of

Fresh dried squills, powdered, one drachm;
 Ginger, powdered,
 Hard soap, of each three drachms;
 Gum ammoniac, in powder, two drachms.

Mix the powders together, then beat them with the soap, with the addition of as much syrup as will give them a proper consistence.

PILULÆ SCILLÆ CUM ZINGIBERE. *Dub.*
Squill Pills with Ginger.

Take of

Powder of squills, one drachm;
 Ginger, in powder, two drachms;
 Essential oil of aniseed, ten drops.

Triturate together, and form into a mass with jelly of soap.

PILULÆ SCILLITICÆ. *Ed.*
Squill Pills.

Take of

Dried root of squills, in fine powder, one scruple;
 Gum ammoniac,
 Lesser cardamom seeds, in powder,
 Extract of liquorice, each one drachm.

Form them into a mass with simple syrup.

THESE are elegant and commodious forms for the exhibition of squills, whether for promoting expectoration, or with the other intentions to which that medicine is applied. As the virtue of the compound is derived chiefly from the squills, the other ingredients are often varied in extemporaneous prescription.