

CHAP. XXVIII.—MEDICATED HONEYS.

MEL DESPUMATUM. *Dub. Lond.*
Clarified Honey.

Melt the honey in a water-bath, and remove the scum as it rises.

In this simple process, the honey is rendered so liquid by the heat of the boiling water, that the wax and other lighter impurities which it commonly contains rise to the surface, in the form of a scum, which is easily removed. At the same time, sand, or any heavy mixture of that kind, sinks to the bottom.

Honey was supposed to be peculiarly balsamic, and was therefore at one time much used in pharmacy. But as its saccharine matter is absolutely of the same nature with that of sugar, and as the extraneous matters which it always contains make it disagree with the stomachs of many individuals, the number of medicated honeys has been much diminished, and their place in some instances supplied by syrups. Medicated honeys are known to be of a proper consistence, by allowing a small quantity to cool on a plate, if, when divided by the edge of a spoon, the portions do not immediately reunite, or if the specific gravity, when hot, be 1.26, or 1.31, when cold.

OXYMEL. *Dub.*
Oxymel.

Take of

Honey, two pounds;

Distilled vinegar, one pint.

Boil in a glass vessel, with a gentle fire, to the consistency of a syrup, skimming it.

OXYMEL SIMPLEX. *Lond.*
Simple Oxymel.

Take of

Clarified honey, two pounds;

Acetic acid, one pint.

Boil down with a gentle fire, in a glass vessel, to a proper thickness.

THIS syrup is now rarely prepared by the apothecary, but is a favourite and useful domestic remedy in colds, and slight sore throats.

MEL BORACIS. *Lond.*
Honey of Borax.

Take of

Subborate of soda, powdered, one drachm;

Clarified honey, an ounce.

Mix them.

THIS is an useful formula, much employed as a detergent in apthæ and ulcers of the mouth.

OXYMEL COLCHICI. *Dub.*
Oxymel of Meadow Saffron.

Take of

The fresh root of meadow saffron, cut into thin slices, one ounce;

Distilled vinegar, one pint;

Clarified honey, two pounds, by weight.

Macerate the root of meadow saffron with the vinegar, in a glass vessel, with a gentle heat, for forty-eight hours. Strain the liquor, pressed out strongly from the root, and add the honey. Lastly, boil the mixture, frequently stirring it with a wooden spoon, to the thickness of a syrup.

THIS is an active preparation, but its use may be entirely superseded by the syrup of the same root.

MEL ROSÆ. *Dub.*
Honey of Roses.

Take of

The petals of red rose buds, previously dried, with the heels cut off, four ounces;

Boiling water, three pints;

Honey, five pounds.

Macerate the rose leaves in the water for six hours; then mix the honey with the strained liquor, and boil the mixture to the thickness of a syrup, removing the scum.

Lond.

Take of

Red rose petals, dried, four ounces;

Boiling water, three pints;

Clarified honey, five pounds.

Macerate the petals in the water for six hours; then add the honey to the filtered liquor, and boil down to a proper consistence in a water-bath.

THIS preparation is not unfrequently used as a mild, cooling detergent, particularly in gargles for ulcerations and inflammation of the mouth and tonsils. The rose-buds here used should be hastily dried, that they may the better preserve their astringency.

The Dublin college, in making this and some similar preparations, used unclarified honey, with the idea, probably, that it may be equally well clarified in the course of the preparation itself. This is no doubt true; but as we do not know what effect the clarification may have on the active substances added to the honey, we think that the use of clarified honey, as directed by the London college, is preferable.

OXYMEL SCILLÆ. *Lond. Dub.*

Oxymel of Squills.

Take of

Clarified honey, three pounds;

Vinegar of squills, two pints.

Boil them in a glass vessel, with a slow fire, to the thickness of a syrup, (a proper thickness, *Lond.*)

OXYMEL of squills is a useful aperient, detergent, and expectorant, and of great service in humoral asthmas, coughs, and other disorders where thick phlegm abounds. It is given in doses of two or three drachms, along with some aromatic water, as that of cinnamon, to prevent the great nausea which it would otherwise be apt to excite. In large doses, it proves emetic.

OXYMEL ERUGINIS. *Dub.*

Oxymel of Verdegris.

LINIMENTUM ERUGINIS. *Lond.*

Liniment of Verdegris.

Take of

Prepared verdegris, one ounce;

Vinegar, seven ounces, by measure;

Clarified honey, fourteen ounces, by weight.

Dissolve the verdegris in the vinegar, and strain it through linen; then add the honey, and boil the whole to a proper thickness.

WHEN properly diluted with water, this preparation has

been recommended in venereal ulcerations of the mouth and tonsils; although from the risk of a portion of it being swallowed, other detergent gargles are to be preferred. Externally it is applied, mixed with any digestive ointment, to destroy fungous flesh, and to excite unhealthy ulcers.

CHAP. XXIX.—EMULSIONS AND MIXTURES.

IN this chapter we comprehend those mixtures in which oils, and other substances, insoluble in water, are mixed with, and suspended in watery fluids, by means of viscid substances, such as mucilage and syrups.

MISTURA AMYGDALARUM. *Lond.*

Almond Mixture.

Take of

Almond confection, two ounces;

Distilled water, one pint.

Triturate the confection with the water gradually added to it, until they mix; then strain.

LAC AMYGDALÆ. *Dub.*

Almond Milk.

Take of

Sweet almonds, blanched, an ounce and a half;

Refined sugar, half an ounce;

Water, two pints and a half;

Triturate the almonds with the sugar, adding the water by degrees, and strain.

EMULSIO AMYGDALÆ COMMUNIS. *Ed.*

Almond Emulsion.

Take of

Sweet almonds, one ounce;

Water, two pounds and a half.

Beat diligently the blanched almonds, in a stone mortar, gradually pouring on them the water; then strain the liquor.