

its dose may be gradually increased from half a grain. Col- in pushed it to the length of 30 grains for a dose.

The extract of henbane has been lately much used by ocu- lists for dilating the pupils of the eyes, in order to facilitate the extraction or breaking down of the cataract, to diminish sensibility, to destroy adhesions, to reduce protrusions of the iris, and to dilate contraction of the pupil. The mode of ap- plication is by dropping a few drops of solution of the extract into the eye, or applying them with a camel's hair brush. The greatest effect is produced in about four hours, and it is generally over in twelve. Vision is not impaired during its action.

HYSSOPUS OFFICINALIS. *Ed. Dub.*

Willd. g. 1096, sp. 1. Didynamia Gymnospermia.—Nat. ord. *Verticillatae.*

Hyssop.

Off.—The herb and leaves.

HERBA HYSSOPI OFFICINALIS. *Ed.*

FOLIA HYSSOPI. *Dub.*

HYSSOP is a perennial herb which grows wild in Germany. Its leaves have an aromatic smell, and a warm pungent taste. Their virtues depend entirely on an essential oil which rises in distillation both with water and with alcohol. Besides the general virtues of aromatics, they were formerly recommend- ed in humoral asthmas, coughs, and other disorders of the breast and lungs, and were said to promote expectoration.

INULA HELENIUM. *Dub.*

Willd. g. 1489, sp. 1. Smith, g. 369, sp. 1. Syngenesia superflua.—Nat. ord. *Compositae radiatae.*

Elecampane.

Off.—The root.

RADIX ENULÆ CAMPANÆ. *Dub.*

THIS is a very large downy perennial plant, sometimes found wild in moist rich soils. It flowers in July and Au- gust. The root, especially when dry, has an agreeable aro- matic smell: its taste, on first chewing, is glutinous, and, as it were, somewhat rancid; in a little time it discovers an aro- matic bitterness, which by degrees becomes considerably acrid and pungent.

Neumann got from 480 grains of the dry root, 390 watery, and 5 alcoholic extract; and inversely, 150 alcoholic, and 300 watery. In distillation, alcohol elevated nothing, but the

distilled water was first observed by Geoffroy to be milky, and mixed with flocculi of a cineritious concrete volatile oil, partly swimming, and partly sinking in the water. He also ascertained that it was fusible, and compares it to camphor or benzoic acid. Neumann likewise examined it, and considered it as a peculiar substance, having some resemblance to camphor. He found that it melts with a gentle heat, and when cold, appears softer and more unctuous; that it never assumes a crystalline form, but when dry proves opaque and crumbly; that laid on burning coals it totally exhales; that it is soluble in alcohol, but insoluble in water; and that by keeping it gradually loses the smell of elecampane. It has also been discovered by Rose to contain a matter having some analogy with starch, the properties of which have been described under the title of Inulin.

According to Funke's analysis, elecampane root contains, 1. A crystallizable volatile oil; 2. A peculiar feculum; 3. An extractive matter; 4. Free acetic acid; 5. A crystallizable resin; 6. Albumen; 7. Fibrous matter. The ashes contain carbonates of lime and of magnesia, silica, and a trace of iron.

Medical use.—It is a gently stimulating medicine, nearly similar in its action to angelica. The extract is merely a slight bitter, as the essential oil is totally dissipated in the preparation.

JUNIPERUS.

Willd. g. 1841. *Smith, g.* 421. *Dioecia Monadelphica.*—
Nat. ord. *Coniferae.*

Sp. 10. Willd. sp. 1. Sm. JUNIPERUS COMMUNIS. Ed. Lond. Dub.

Common juniper.

Off.—The berries and tops.

a) *BACCÆ JUNIPERI. Lond. Dub.*

BACCÆ JUNIPERI COMMUNIS. Ed.

b) *CACUMINA JUNIPERI. Lond.*

THIS is an evergreen shrub, growing on heaths and hilly grounds in all parts of Europe. It flowers in May. The berries are chiefly brought from Holland and from Italy. The Italian berries are in general reckoned the best. Juniper berries have a strong, not disagreeable smell, and a warm pungent sweet taste, which, if they are long chewed, or much bruised, is followed by a bitterish one. Their predominant constituents are essential oil, and a sweet mucilaginous matter.

Medical use.—To the oil they are indebted for their stimu-