
SECTION XI.

POWDERS.

Pulvis Antiepilepticus, de Guttera dictus.
Powder against the Falling-sickness.

TAKE of the Roots of *Cassumunair*, of white Dittany and of Piony, Mistletoe of the oak [or hazel] and of Piony-seeds, each half an ounce; of the human Skull, and Elk's-hoof, each three drams; of *Russia* Castor, and red Coral, each two drams; and of wild Valerian-root, an ounce; mix them together, and make a powder; adding thereto thirty drops of the distill'd oil of Rue*.

* This appears to be a much more effectual, as it is a much more simple medicine than that adopted by the *London* College, under the same title: what the burnt Hart's-horn, the Jacinth, the two kinds of Bezoar, and the leaf gold, order'd in that, contribute to the intention, I cannot say; any more than the red coral in both; which, by the way, is the only exceptionable ingredient here; unless any thing be objected to those hard animal substances, the human Skull and the Elk's-hoof.

Pulvis

Pulvis Ari compositus.

Compound Powder of Wake-Robin.

Take of fresh dried Arum-roots, two ounces; the Roots of *Calamus aromaticus*, and Pimpinell-saxifrage, of each an ounce; Crab's Eyes, half an ounce; Cinnamon, three drams, and Salt of Wormwood, two drams: mix them together, and make a Powder thereof, according to art*.

Pulvis Cephalicus.

Cephalic Powder.

Take the Leaves of Asarabacca, and the roots of Lillies of the Valley, of each two drams; the tops of Betony, Marjoram and Rosemary, of each a dram and half: mix them together, and make a Powder †.

* The contrivance of this Powder cannot be much commended; some of the ingredients are very apt to lose of their virtue in this form, especially if kept for anytime; particularly the principal one, the Arum root; for which reason it shou'd, as directed by the London College, always be added fresh, to the other materials; or the whole be kept close stopped, in no large quantity, as is expressly order'd by the following Rules; otherwise the Salt of Wormwood, being very attractive of moisture, will, upon opening the containing vessel, be disposed to run, by the admission of the air, and wet the powder.

† Perhaps it had not been amiss to have entitl'd this Powder *Pulvis Sternutatorius*, or sneezing Powder, to express its manner of use, as well as virtues; whereas the title now leaves the former ambiguous, tho' the scope and tendency of the ingredients will soon inform the judicious reader of its intention.

K 3

Pulvis

Pulvis è Chelis Cancrorum compositus.

Compound Powder of Crab's Claws.

Take of red Coral, and Crab's-Eyes, each half an ounce; burnt Hart's-horn, and white Amber, of each three drams; of Pearls and oriental Bezoar, each two drams; and of the black tips of Crab's Claws, an equal weight with all the foregoing: mix them together for a Powder*.

Pulvis Contrayervæ compositus.

Compound Powder of Contrayerva.

Take of burnt Hart's-horn, red Coral, Pearls, Crab's-Eyes, and white Amber, each

* The world, not excluding Physicians, are mightily guided by names and notions; against all the testimonies and convictions of sense and reason: and every unprejudiced observer finds this more flagrant among collective bodies of men, than single Persons; and for an obvious reason: *ei πλεονεξιοι.* What else cou'd give so high a reputation, to such an indifferent composition as the *Gascoign's* Powder, which still has and will have its admirers; plead what you can in bar of its antidotal or alexipharmic virtues? And indeed those who resolve to do no mischief in medicine, may well enough depend on it; but let no physician of reputed sense and judgment lay any stress thereon, other than as a mild terrestrious alkali, till he can shew it possess'd of greater virtues than chalk, or the common testaceous powders. Some allowance however must be made for an established custom and rivetted opinions; which may justify the learned compilers for allowing a place to so slender a medicine in an officinal Dispensatory, which, beyond all controversy, stands first in the rank.

The needless trouble of making the powder into balls, either with gelly of viper's skins, or a solution of Gum Arabic, is here properly avoided.

two

two drams; of Saffron, half a dram; Cochineal, a dram; of *Virginia* Snake-root, a dram and half; of Crabs-Claws, three drams; and of *Contrayerva*-root, half an ounce: Make them into a Powder*

Pulvis Cornachini.

Cornachine's Powder.

Take of Diaphoretic Antimony, Cream of Tartar, and Scammony, each a like quantity; and make thereof a Powder †.

Pulvis Diambrae dictus.

Powder called Diambra.

Take of the roots of *Calamus aromaticus*, and Galangal; of Cloves, Cinnamon, Mace,

* This is actually such a medicine, as the generality fondly imagine the former to be; and in all cases of importance, where a good alexipharmic is required, may be advantageously used instead of the famous *Pulvis à chelis Cancrorum compositus*. The addition of the Saffron, Cochineal, and Snake-root, wonderfully improves the composition; and scarce leaves room for farther amendment. The learned compilers judge their amendments admirably: there was danger in attempting to alter a medicine so well establish'd as *Gascoign's Powder*; but the public will quietly enough bear a reform in the *Lapis Contrayervæ*; which is here, to save needless labour, changed for a powder; and, in the manner wherein all powders are hereafter order'd to be kept, may be thus commodiously preserved ready for use.

† The *London Dispensatory* has two powders, viz. *Pulv. Cornachini*, and *Pulv. Comitum Warvicensis*, made of the same ingredients, tho' in different proportions; but that here given, may very well answer the ends of both.

K 4

Indian

Indian Leaf [or Bay-Leaves] Nutmeg, the greater and the lesser Cardamoms, and Spike-nard, each a dram; of Aloes-wood, yellow Saunders, and long Pepper, each two drams; of Ginger, a dram and half: mix them together for a Powder *.

Pulvis Diasennæ.

Compound Powder of Senna.

Take of the Leaves of Senna, and Cream of Tartar, each two ounces; Galangal, the Seed of Bishop's-weed, Cloves, and Cinnamon, of each two drams; Scammony, half an ounce: make them into a powder †.

Pulvis Diatessaron.

Powder of four Ingredients.

Take of the Roots of round Birthwort, and Gentian, of Bay-berries, and Myrrh, each two ounces; make them into a Powder ||:

* By leaving out the perfumes, originally order'd in this Powder, 'tis render'd more generally useful, and less offensive; so that as it here stands, it seems, in the whole, to be a generous invigorating medicine.

† The *London Dispensatory* is crowded with no less than three compound Powders of Senna; the *compositus major*, the *compositus minor*, and the *Diasennæ*; the intentions of all which are effectually answer'd by the present, tho it differs not from the third of the *London College*.

|| The *Pulvis Diatessaron* is supposed no bad substitute for the species of the *Theriaca*; and accordingly there are those who make use of it in that way, rather than mix it up into Horse-balls.

whereof

whereof, by the addition of two ounces of Ivory-shavings, is made

Pulvis Diapente.

Powder of five Ingredients.

Pulvis Diatragacanthi frigidus.

The compound, cooling Powder of Gum Tragacanth.

Take of Gum Tragacanth, an ounce; Gum Arabic, five drams; Starch, and Liquorise, of each two drams: make them into a Powder; to which, at the time of using it, add two drams of white Poppy-seed, and a dram of each of the four greater cold Seeds, freed from their husks: mix them and make there- of a Powder*.

Pulvis Hieræ Picræ.

Powder of Hieræ Picra.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, four ounces; Galangal, Rhubarb, *Virginia Snake-root*, and Zedoary,

* For the character and uses of this Powder, see Dr. Quincy's *Compleat Dispensatory*, pag. 475, 476. The Sugar is dropt in the composition, as increasing the bulk thereof to little purpose. And it wou'd be more com- modious still, if some other refrigerants, fit for keeping in this form, suppose nitre, *Sal Prunel.* or the like, were order'd instead of the cold Seeds; which, on ac- count of their oil, are so very apt to turn rancid, that they

cannot

Zedoary, of each three drams: mix them and make a Powder *

When the *Hiera Picra* is made for the sake of the Tincture, only the Aloes need be pulveriz'd; and the other ingredients well bruised †.

Pulvis Millepedum compositus.

Compound Powder of Millepedes.

Take of Millepedes, Crabs-Eyes, and Oyster-shells, each an ounce; Liquorise-root, and the root of Restharrow, the Seeds of the greater Burdock, wild Carot, and Gromwell, of each six drams; of Cream of Tartar, and the Salt of Broom, each three drams: mix them, and make a Powder †.

cannot make a part of the powder till it just comes to be used; which must occasion no small trouble and inconvenience: whence, I presume, they are frequently left out by the compounder.

* Here we have an elegant, and effectual *Hiera Picra*, from a few well-selected ingredients. The London College have lately altered this medicine, much for the better; but here it appears in still greater simplicity: and the addition of the Rhubarb, and *Snake-root*, cannot but considerably increase its virtues.

† See *Tinctura Sacra*.
 † This powder seems intended as a deobstruent, a diuretic and absorbent; but tho' the design be good, the contrivance seems capable of emendation: the Liquorise-root has little pretence to a place here; and if any stress be laid upon the Salt of Broom, as a diuretic, this favours too much of antiquity; for the modern chemists will never allow it, when rightly prepared, to differ from the fix'd salt of any other vegetable.

Pulvis

Pulvis ad Partum.

Powder to promote Delivery.

Take of Borax, half an ounce; Castor, and Saffron, of each a dram and half: mix them and make a Powder; to which add of the distill'd oil of Cinnamon, eight drops; and of the distill'd oil of Amber, six drops: and mix all together*.

Pulvis Strypticus.

Stryptic Powder.

Take of Roch-Alum, half an ounce; and of Dragon's-Blood, two drams: mix them into a Powder †.

Pulvis Vermifugus.

Worm-Powder.

Take of the leaves of the female Southern-wood, of the Flowers of Tansey, and of Worm-feed and Coralline, each half an ounce: mix and make them into a Powder; whereto add

* The addition of the essential oils greatly improves the virtues of the medicine; which are otherwise very considerable, and capable of answering the intention express'd by the title.

† Tho this appears a very simple, yet is it a very effectual stryptic, and astringent; accordingly 'tis hereafter justly order'd as an ingredient in the *Electuarium Antidyfentericum*.

of

of the distill'd Oils of Rue, and Savin, each twenty drops: and mix all together*.

GENERAL RULES for the Making of POWDERS.

- I. *Particular care must be had, that nothing rotten, decay'd or impure be mix'd along with Powders; beside which, the stalks, and all the corrupted parts of plants are to be first pick'd out, and thrown away.*
- II. *When dry Spices are powder'd, they shou'd be sprinkled with a few drops of some proper water.*
- III. *The moister Aromatics shou'd be dried with a very soft heat, before they are reduced to powder.*
- IV. *Gums, and the other things that grind with difficulty, are to be mix'd with the dryer Ingredients; so as to pass the sieve together.*
- V. *Powders shou'd be made only in small quantities; and ought to be kept in well-stop'd glasses †.*

* This is an effectual medicine in all cases of worms where purging is not required, or after it has been fruitlessly tried.

† These rules are so very plain and just, as to carry their reasons along with them: and indeed all the rules laid down in this Dispensatory, are fetch'd from the nature of things, and shew a good acquaintance with pharmacy, and the properties of simples.

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