
SECTION XIII.

PILLS.

Pilulæ Æthiopicæ.

Pills with Æthiops.

TAKE of Æthiops Mineral, two ounces ;
of the Antihectic of *Poterius*, an ounce ;
of the Rosin of Guaiacum, half an ounce : and,
with a sufficient quantity of Balsam *Capivi*,
make them up into a mass of Pills *.

Pilulæ de Ammoniaco Chalybeatæ.

Pills of Gum-Ammoniac with Steel.

Take of Gum-Ammoniac two ounces ; *Succotrine* Aloes, an ounce and half ; Salt of Steel,

* This is a well-contrived composition, for the purpose of a thorough deobstruent ; tho perhaps the Æthiops mineral contributes much less thereto, than is generally supposed. But the Antihectic of *Poterius* is certainly admirable in such an intention, according to the just character given thereof by Dr. *Quincy*, in his *Compleat Dispensatory*, p. 273, 274.

six drams; of Myrrh, Rosin of Guaiacum, and Extract of Gentian, each half an ounce; of Saffron, two drams: and, with a proper quantity of *Elixir Proprietatis*, make them into a mass of Pills, according to the rules of art*.

Pilulæ Cocciaë.

Pills called Cocciaë ||.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, Troches of Alhanhal, and of Scammony, each an ounce; of the distill'd Oil of Cloves, a dram: and with Syrup of Buckthorn, enough for that purpose, bring them into a mass of Pills.

Pilulæ communes Avicennæ.

The common Pills of Avicenna.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, two ounces; of Myrrh, an ounce; of Saffron, half an ounce:

* Here we have a fine chalybeate medicine, composed of suitable ingredients, and properly brought into the form of pills; as being otherwise very nauseous to take. The mass is not inconsiderately ordered to be made up with *Elixir Proprietatis*; which, as it is commonly directed for that purpose, seldom holds the ingredients together; but here the Extract of Gentian, &c. will cause it to bind.

|| The origin of this name is somewhat obscure and undetermin'd: *Rhasis* is the first who mentions and describes the composition with this Epithet; which some suppose derived from the Greek word κόκκος, in allusion to the form or figure of these pills, resembling a berry or some grain; but others rather chuse to fetch it from κόκκος, as signifying that kind of medicine which causes a plentiful discharge of humours.

and

and with a sufficient quantity of the Syrup of Orange-peel, make them into a mass for Pills*.

Pilulæ communes Rufi.

The common Pills of Rufus.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, two ounces; Gum-Ammoniac, an ounce; Myrrh, half an ounce: and with a proper quantity of *Elixir Proprietatis*, bring them into a mass of Pills †.

Pilulæ de Cynoglossio.

Pills of Hound's-tongue.

Take the root of Hound's-tongue, white Henbane Seed, and Opium, of each half an ounce; of Myrrh, six drams; Olibanum, five drams; Castor, Saffron, and solid Storax, of

* This is the common *Pilulæ Rufi* of our Shops, and *Rufus* appears to be the original author of the composition; tho' the same medicine is found in the *Augustan Dispensatory*, under the title of *Pilulæ Pestilentiales seu communes Avicennæ*; from whence the learned compilers seem to have taken it. Whoever desires to know more of the history of these pills, may consult Dr. *Quincy's Dispensatory*, p. 462, 463. and *Boerhaave's New Method of Chemistry*, p. 167, PRACT. The Syrup of Orange-peel is with good judgment made choice of by the compilers to form the mass.

† With submission to the better knowledge of the compilers, these pills have not a proper title; the former, called by them *Pilulæ communes Avicennæ*, being I think, unquestionably, the *Pilulæ communes Rufi*. See *Quincy's Dispensatory*, and *Boerhaave's Chemistry*, ubi supra.

each

each two drams ; Syrup of Diacodium, enough to make them, by the rules of art, into a mass for Pills*.

Pilulæ de Duobus.

Pills of two principal Ingredients.

Take the Troches of Alhandal, and Scammony, of each an ounce ; of the distill'd Oil of Cloves, a dram ; and with a suitable quantity of Syrup of Buckthorn, bring them into a mass of Pills, according to the rules of art ||.

Pilulæ Ecpfracticæ, seu de Extractis.

Deobstruent Pills, or Pills compos'd of Extracts.

Take of *Succotrine* Aloes, four ounces ; Gum Ammoniac, nine drams ; Jalap-root, and leaves of Senna, of each an ounce ; Extract of black Hellebore, Rosin of Guaiacum, Myrrh, and Tartar of Vitriol, of each two drams ; Ex-

* This composition varies from that given us under the same title in the *London Dispensatory*, only in substituting myrrh for mastich, and increasing the proportions of the castor, saffron and storax.

|| The quantity of the corrector is here the double of what is ordered in the *London Dispensatory*, and the griping quality of the ingredients seems to require it ; tho' this is also considerably lessen'd by using the *Trochisci Albandal* instead of mere colocynth ; because these Troches, as they stand in this Dispensatory, are very properly made with a suitable proportion of *Tartarum Vitriolatum*. See *Trochisci Albandal*.

tract of Gentian, distill'd Oil of Juniper, Balsam of *Peru*, and Saffron, of each a dram; Syrup of Buckthorn, as much as will, with art, make them into a mass for Pills †.

Pilulæ Ecphracticæ cum Aculeo.

Stimulating Deobstruent Pills.

Take of the *Pilula Ecphracticæ*, or mass of Deobstruent Pills, three ounces; of Scammony, an ounce; of the distill'd Oil of Cloves, a dram; and, with a sufficient proportion of Syrup of Buckthorn, make them into a mass for Pills*.

Pilulæ de Gambogia.

Pills of Gamboge.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, two drams and a half; Gum-Ammoniac and Gamboge, of each one dram and half; of Scammony, a dram; of Tartar of Vitriol, half a dram; of distill'd Oil of

† This appears to be an useful composition; scarce any thing remaining exceptionable therein, as incongruous to the intention, unless it be the myrrh. The cohesion of the mass is here also well provided for, which is in particular not sufficiently regarded by the *London College*, in the composition they give us under the same title.

* Scammony, we see, the learned compilers judge should never be trusted without a corrector; as indeed it is otherwise very apt to lodge in the intestines, abrade their mucus, and corrode their vessels.

Juniper, a scruple ; and as much Syrup of Buckthorn as will make them into a mass †.

Pilulæ Gummofæ.

Gummy Pills.

Take of Galbanum, six drams ; of Myrrh, five drams ; of *Assa fœtida*, half an ounce ; of Castor, three drams ; of Oil of Amber, half a dram ; and with a sufficient quantity of *Elixir Proprietatis*, bring them, by art, into a mass ‖.

Pilulæ de Myrrha.

Pills of Myrrh.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, the Extract of black Hellebore, and of Myrrh, each half an ounce ; of Castor, Saffron, and Galbanum, each two drams ; of the distill'd Oil of Savin, half a dram : and with a sufficient quantity of

† The roughness, and griping quality of the Gamboge is here well corrected by the Tartar of Vitriol, and the Oil of Juniper.

‖ This Pill is excellently contrived to answer the purposes of an hysteric ; being as effectual as it is simple, and easy of preparation ; as it will prove, if the following rules, for the making up of pills, be but observed as they ought : for if the gums be first opened, and rendered soft by the *Elixir Proprietatis*, all the ingredients will incorporate kindly, and form an uniform mass of the right consistence for pills. This liquor therefore, was not taken as the first that offer'd for that purpose ; but judiciously pitch'd upon, as being itself a medicine conspiring with the ingredients, and contributing to the same end.

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Elix-

Elixir Proprietatis, mix them so as to make a mass for Pills †.

Pilulæ Pacificæ, vulgò *Matthæi*.

Anodyne Pills, commonly call'd *Matthew's Pills*.

Take of *Virginia Snake-root*, Castor, Saffron, and Opium, each an ounce; Soap of Tartar, three ounces; Balsam *Capivi*, a sufficient quantity: mix them together, artificially, so as to make a mass for Pills †.

Pilulæ Pectorales.

Pectoral Pills.

Take of Gum-Ammoniac, Benjamin, Myrrh, and solid Storax, each half an ounce; and with a sufficient quantity of Balsam of Sulphur, made either with Oil of Turpentine, or Oil of

† This is a good purgative hysteric pill, as the *Pilulæ Gummosæ* were only alterative.

‡ This is a mighty simple and compendious method of making the *Pilule Matthæi*; so as to obtain the full effect of the composition. The *Balsam Capivi*, as a fine turpentine, is much better suited to hold the mass together than *Oleum Terebinthine*, which is apt to leave it crumbly. If the reader wants to be informed of the virtues of this noble remedy, he may find them in *Dr. Quincy's Dispensatory*, p. 336; tho' this is a better composition than that there described under the same name. See also *Boerhaave's New Method of Chemistry*, p. 179, PRACT.

Ani-

Aniseeds, bring them into a mass, according to the rules of art*.

Pilulæ, seu Extractum Rudij.

Pills, or Extract of Rudius.

Take of Agaric, Colocynth, the Roots of black Hellebore and Turbith, each an ounce: bruise them well, and add thereto half an ounce of Salt of Tartar, and two quarts of Spring-water: boil them to the consumption of one half; then press out the liquor, and exhale it to the consistence of Honey; afterwards put to it the following Ingredients, reduced to a very fine powder, *viz.* of *Succotrine Aloes*, two ounces; and of Scammony, an ounce: lastly, having removed the mass from the fire, mix with it a dram of the distill'd Oil of Cloves †.

* This makes a pretty kind of pectoral pill, that in common coughs, either with or without a hoarseness, and in all difficulties of respiration, may be very safely, and, often, very effectually given.

† Here is a fine contrivance in the management of this composition; whilst other Dispensatories have it very unartful: with what good sense are the Agaric, Colocynth, Hellebore, and Turpeth ordered for decoction, in water and salt of tartar? With what elegance and simplicity is their Extract ordered to be taken? How prudently are the spices dropt in the decoction? How judiciously the useles trouble of a distillation avoided: and how prudently the corrector added, at last, in the form of an essential oil?

Pilulæ Stomachicæ cum Gummi.

Stomach Pills with Gums.

Take of *Succotrine Aloes*, an ounce ; of *Rhubarb*, six drams ; of *Gum-Ammoniac*, half an ounce ; of *Myrrh*, and *Extract of Gentian*, each a dram and half ; of *Saffron*, and *Salt of Wormwood*, each half a dram ; and with a sufficient quantity of *Syrup of Buckthorn*, make them into a mass for Pills *.

Pilulæ de Styrace.

Pills of Storax.

Take of *calamite Storax*, *Balsam of Tolu*, *Myrrh*, *Olibanum*, and *Opium*, each half an ounce ; of *Saffron*, a dram ; and, with a proper proportion of *Diacodium*, make them into a mass, according to the rules of Art ||.

Pilulæ Tartaræ.

Pills with Tartar.

Take of *Gum-Ammoniac*, six drams ; *Succotrine Aloes*, three drams ; *Tartar of Vitriol*, half a dram ; *Elixir Proprietatis*, a sufficient quantity ; and mix them into a mass †.

* The addition of the *Rhubarb*, and the *Extract of Gentian*, greatly improves this composition ; and fits it for the intention expressed by its title.

|| This makes a mighty pretty pectoral opiate ; the addition of the *Balsam of Tolu* contributing not a little to its improvement.

† For the character of these pills see *Dr. Quincy*, in his complete Dispensatory, p. 468, and in his notes upon that of the *London College*, p. 136, 137.

GENE-

GENERAL RULES for the making up of PILLS.

- I. *The three former Rules, laid down for the making of Powders, are to be carefully observed in the making of Pills.*
- II. *The Gums and inspissated Juices must be first softened, by means of the liquor prescribed; then the Powders are to be added, gradually; and lastly, a perfect mixture is to be made of the whole, by repeated strokes of the pestle.*
- III. *All masses of Pills should be kept in oiled bladders.*



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