

only are required. As a local application, this solution, diluted with two parts of water forms a useful gargle in venereal sore throat; and without dilution we have found it serviceable as a gargle for breaking the abscess in cynanche tonsillaris, when suppuration takes place. Diluted with an equal quantity of water, it is employed as a wash against tetter and scabies; and very largely diluted, it may be used as an injection in gonorrhœa: or given in the form of enema, when the stomach will not receive it.

In concluding the account of the preparations of mercury, it may not be improper to observe that the exhibition of any of them in certain states of the habit, and at the time under exposure to cold, is apt to excite an erythematic eruption of the skin, accompanied with much fever. This disease does not at all depend on the use of any particular preparation of the remedy; but, as far as I have been able to observe, it is liable to show itself in such an irritable state of the habit as produces hysteria in females, when the body is very suddenly exposed to a current of cold air, or to a cold moist atmosphere, while under the influence of mercury. When it occurs, the mercurials must be immediately discontinued, bark, opium, and purgatives internally administered, and the affected surface sprinkled with dry flour, or covered with the *linimentum aquæ calcis* of the Edinburgh and Dublin pharmacopœias; while at the same time the warm bath is to be used at least twice a day. Under this treatment the disease generally disappears, and the use of the mercurial may be renewed; but sometimes the morbid symptoms increase under every mode of treatment, and a fatal termination of the disease ensues.

PRÆPARATA E STANNO.

PREPARATIONS OF TIN.

PULVIS STANNI. Dub.* *Powder of Tin.*

“Take of tin, *any quantity*. Melt it over the fire in an iron mortar, and stir it while it is cooling, until it becomes a powder, which, when cold, is to be passed through a sieve.”

* Poudre d'Étain (F.) Zinn (G.) Stagno in polvere (I.)

By this process tin is reduced to the form of a fine granular powder, and, perhaps, by the constant stirring, it is also very slightly oxidized, for the powder has less brilliancy than the entire metal.

Medical properties and uses. — Powder of tin is a mechanical anthelmintic. It has been chiefly given in tænia; and is supposed to operate by the grittiness of its particles irritating the worm, and dislodging it from the mucus in which it is imbedded. It is given in doses of ʒj. or ʒij. mixed in treacle, for two or three successive mornings, and a brisk cathartic afterwards exhibited. But it is likely to be, henceforth, seldom used, oil of turpentine being a much superior remedy for the expulsion of tænia.

PRÆPARATA E PLUMBO.

PREPARATIONS OF LEAD.

LIQUOR PLUMBI SUBACETATIS. Lond. *Solution of Subacetate of Lead.*

“Take of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, *two pounds*; acetic acid (distilled vinegar), *a gallon*. Mix them, and boil down to six pints, assiduously stirring; then set the solution aside, that the impurities may subside, and strain it.”

LIQUOR SUBACETATIS LITHARGYRI. Dub. *Solution of Subacetate of Lead.*

“Take of litharge, *a pound*; distilled vinegar, *eight pints*. Put them into a glass vessel, and boil to six pints, assiduously stirring; then set the solution aside, and strain it after the fæces have subsided.”

In these processes, the acetic acid, which the distilled vinegar contains in a highly diluted state, attracts a portion of the oxide of lead, and forms an acetate, which remains dissolved in the water. The two Colleges err in naming it a subacetate. The proportion of litharge ordered in both formulæ is too large, a gallon of distilled vinegar of the specific gravity 1·007 being capable of dissolving ten ounces only of the oxide.

Qualities. — This solution of acetate of lead, when properly prepared with pure distilled vinegar, is of a greenish straw-colour, has a slight acetous odour, and an austere somewhat sweetish taste. It is partially decomposed when largely di-

¹ Aqua lithargyri acetati, P. L. 1797. Acetate de Plomb liquide (F.) Blaiwasser (G.) Aceto di Saturno (L.)