

ture of 70° , and consequently producing a greater degree of cold by its evaporation; and is very inflammable. It requires 48 parts of water for its solution, but combines with alcohol in every proportion; and readily absorbs nitrous and acetic acids, both of which acids are formed in it when it is kept for some time. According to the analysis of Thenard, the constituents of 100 parts of nitric ether are 48.52 of oxygen, 28.45 of carbon, 14.49 of azote, and 8.54 of hydrogen: but this analysis is liable to some exceptions.

Medical properties and uses. — Nitric ether, although introduced into the Dublin Pharmacopœia, has not yet been generally used in practice; but it is probable that its properties are the same as those of sulphuric ether, and consequently it is applicable to the same cases.

VINA.

WINES.

WINE acts upon vegetable substances in nearly the same manner as diluted spirit, dissolving such of their proximate principles as can be taken up by water and alcohol when combined: hence it has been long used as a menstruum for extracting the active parts of medicinal vegetables; and the solutions thus formed have been denominated *Medicated Wines*. As a solvent, however, it is liable to the objection of inequality of strength; and owing to the spontaneous decomposition which it undergoes from exposure to the air, it is still more objectionable, this change being likely to take place sooner when it is imbued with principles all of which tend to hasten the fermentative process. To remedy these disadvantages in this class of preparations, Parmentier has proposed¹, that instead of preparing medicated wines in the usual method, the alcoholic tinctures well prepared should be added to wine in given quantities; by which means, he contends, the preparations are less nauseous, and, what is a still greater advantage, are always of a determinate strength. The British Colleges, however, still order medicated wines to be prepared after the old method. They should be kept in very well corked bottles, and in a cool situation. By the general term Wine, the London College means to designate Sherry Wine.

VINUM ALOES. Lond. *Wine of Aloes.*²

“Take of extract of spiked aloës, eight ounces; canella bark,

¹ *Annales de Chimie*, lii, 46.

² Vin d'Aloë (F.) Vino Aloetico (I.)

two ounces; wine, six pints; proof spirit, two pints. Rub the aloës to powder with white sand previously freed from any impurities; rub the canella bark also into powder, and on these, mixed together, pour the wine and spirits. Macerate for fourteen days, frequently shaking the vessel containing the mixture, and afterwards strain."

Dublin.

"Take of Socotorine aloës, four ounces; canella alba, an ounce; Spanish white wine, three pints; proof spirit, a pound. Let the aloës and the canella alba, separately reduced to powder, be mixed together, and pour on them the wine mixed with the spirit; then digest for fourteen days with frequent agitation; and lastly, strain the solution."

VINUM ALÖES SOCOTORINÆ. Edin. *Wine of Socotorine Aloës.*

"Take of Socotorine aloës in powder, one ounce; lesser cardamom seeds bruised, ginger root bruised, of each a drachm; Spanish white wine, two pounds. Digest for seven days, shaking the mixture frequently, and strain."

Wine is an excellent solvent of aloës, and therefore this solution contains all the virtues of the remedy in a more agreeable form than that of tincture. The sand ordered by the London College is intended to facilitate the pulverization of the aloës; but although it does not in the least affect the solution, yet it is seldom used; for by cutting the aloës into small pieces, and exposing them to the air, they become sufficiently pulverulent.

Medical properties and uses.—Wine of aloës is an excellent warm purgative and stomachic. It has long been employed with benefit in cold phlegmatic habits, paralysis, gout, dyspepsia, and chlorosis. The dose is from fʒj. to fʒij. to act as a stomachic, and from fʒj. to fʒij. to produce purging.

VINUM GENTIANÆ COMPOSITUM. Edin. *Compound Wine of Gentian.*¹

"Take of gentian root, half an ounce; cinchona bark, one ounce; orange peel dried, two drachms; canella alba, one drachm; proof spirit, four ounces; Spanish white wine, two pounds and a half. First pour the proof spirit on the root and the barks sliced and bruised; and after twenty-four hours add the wine; then macerate for seven days, and strain."

This wine when newly prepared is stomachic and tonic, but by keeping it is very apt to become acescent. The dose is from fʒiv. to fʒvj. given two or three times a day.

VINUM IPECACUANHÆ. Lond. *Wine of Ipecacuanha.*²

¹ Vin de Gentiane composé (F.) Vino di Genziana composto (I.)

² Vin d'Ipecacuanha (F.) Vino con Ipecacuana (I.)

“Take of ipecacuanha root bruised, *two ounces*; wine *two pints*. Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.”

Edinburgh.

“Take of the root of ipecacuanha bruised, *one part*; Spanish white wine, *fifteen parts*. Macerate for seven days, and filter through paper.”

Dublin.

“Take of the root of ipecacuanha bruised, *two ounces*; Spanish white wine, *two pints*. Digest for seven days, then filter.”

From my trials I find that a pint of sherry wine takes up 100 grains of ipecacuanha, which is the larger proportion of the soluble matter contained in an ounce of the root; and as the active part of the root, or emetin, is more soluble in acetic acid than any other menstruum, the acescency of the wine is no objection. As an emetic it is equally efficacious, and at the same time milder in its operation than antimonial wine, and is therefore better adapted for infants. For this purpose a teaspoonful, or $\frac{1}{3}$ ss. is given for a dose, and repeated every ten minutes till it operates. In smaller doses it answers the same purposes as the powder, and is given in coughs, diarrhœa, dysentery, and other complaints in which a determination to the skin is indicated.

VINUM NICOTIANÆ TABACI. Edin. *Wine of Tobacco.*

“Take of tobacco leaves, *one part*; Spanish white wine, *twelve parts*. Macerate for seven days, and filter through paper.”

This is the only form in which tobacco can be conveniently exhibited as an internal remedy. It is given to produce diuretic and antispasmodic effects in dropsies, colica pictonum, and ileus. The dose is from $\mathfrak{m}$ x. to $\mathfrak{m}$ xxx. in any proper vehicle.

VINUM OPII. Lond. Edin. *Wine of opium.**

“Take of extract of opium, *an ounce*; cinnamon bark, bruised, cloves bruised, of each *a drachm*; wine *a pint*. Macerate for eight days, (seven days, *Edin.*) and filter.”

Wine extracts the active matter of opium, and forms a solution which agrees in its properties with the alcoholic tincture; but the aromatics this preparation contains are supposed to modify the action of the opium, and prevent the disturbance of the brain and nervous system, which the simple tincture is apt to induce in nervous habits, and where the head is much affected. Mr. Ware introduced the use of this tincture as a local application in the second stage of ophthalmia; when the

* Laudanum liquidum Sydenhemi, P. L. 1720. Vin d'Opium aromatique (F.) Vina aromo opiato (I.)

inflammatory symptoms have subsided, and the vessels of the conjunctiva remain turgid with red blood. Two or three drops are dropped into the eye every morning, until the redness is removed.

VINUM RHEL. Edin. *Wine of Rhubarb.*

“Take of rhubarb root, sliced, *two ounces*; cannella bark, bruised, *a drachm*; proof spirit, *two ounces*; Spanish white wine, *fifteen ounces*. Macerate for seven days, and filter through paper.”

This wine, when newly prepared, has the same properties, and may be applied to the same uses as the tincture, but it is liable to undergo decomposition. The dose is from $\text{f}\frac{3}{4}\text{ss}$. to $\text{f}\frac{3}{4}\text{j}$. or more.

VINUM VERATRI, Lond. *Wine of white Hellebore.*

“Take of white hellebore root, bruised, *eight ounces*; wine, *two pints and a half*. Macerate for fourteen days, and filter.”

This preparation was supposed to form one of the ingredients of the Eau Medicinale; but this opinion is unfounded. It is seldom employed.

ACETICA.

PREPARATIONS OF VINEGAR.

VINEGAR is capable of dissolving all those proximate principles of plants which are soluble in water; and it is further found to extract more completely than any other solvent, the acrid matter on which the efficacy of squill and colchicum depends. As a solvent, however, of vegetable matter, the use of vinegar cannot be extended, as it destroys the medicinal properties of some vegetable principles, and does not accord with others in virtue. Medicated vinegars are very apt to spoil, notwithstanding the addition of spirit which is ordered; and therefore they should be made in small quantities only at a time, and preserved in well stopped glass bottles.

ACIDUM ACETICUM AROMATICUM. Edin. *Aromatic Vinegar.**

“Take of rosemary tops, dried, sage leaves, dried, of each *one ounce*; lavender flowers dried, *half an ounce*; cloves, bruised, *half a drachm*; distilled vinegar, *two pounds*. Macerate for seven days, and filter the expressed liquor through paper.”

* Vinaigre antiseptique (F.) Gewürzessig (G.) Aceto antisettico (I.)