

ciously used as a demulcent in hectic fever, and to allay the tickling cough of catarrh: in gonorrhœa and strangury it is given combined with nitre; and in dysentery, with ipecacuanha powder. The dose is from 3fs. to ʒiij. mixed in water or any bland fluid.

PILULÆ.

PILLS.

PILLS are masses of a consistence sufficient to preserve a round form, yet not so hard as to be of too difficult solution in the stomach. This form of preparation is particularly adapted for medicines which have a very nauseous taste or flavour, and such as operate in minute doses. Extracts, when not too hard, may be formed into pills without any addition; but more generally they are composed of either vegetable, or earthy, or metallic powders, combined by means of syrup into a coherent mass. Salts also may be formed into pills, except such as are deliquescent; and when efflorescent salts are used, they should be first freed from the water of crystallization, for the pills formed with uneffloresced salts which are apt to effloresce, fall into powder as they dry. The masses, which are ordered to be kept prepared for the formation of pills, require to be preserved in covered pots, wrapped in bladders, and occasionally moistened. When they are to be formed into pills, a given portion of the mass is rolled into a cylinder, the length of which is regulated by the number of pills into which it is to be divided; and the division is effected either as equally as possible by the hand, or by a machine invented for the purpose. (See *Instruments*, Part i.) After the round form is given to each of the pills, by rolling the divided pieces between the fingers, they are covered by some dried powder, as subcarbonate of magnesia or starch, to prevent them from adhering. With the same intention pills were formerly gilded; but as simple dry powders answers all the purposes of this covering, it is now altogether laid aside.

PILULÆ ALOES COMPOSITÆ. Lond. *Compound Aloetic Pills.*¹

“Take of extract of spiked aloës powdered, *an ounce*; extract of gentian, *half an ounce*; oil of carraway, *forty minims*; syrup, *a sufficient quantity*. Beat them together until they combine into an uniform mass.”

¹ Pilules d'Aloë composée (F.) Pillole d'Aloë composta (I.)

PILULÆ ALÖETICÆ. Edin. *Alöetic Pills.*

"Take of Socotorine alöes in powder, soap, of each *equal parts*. Beat them with simple syrup, so as to make a mass fit for forming pills."

PILULÆ ALOES CUM ZINGIBERE. Dub. *Pills of Alöes and Ginger.*

"Take of hepatic aloes, *an ounce*; ginger root in powder, *a drachm*; soap, *half an ounce*; essential oil of peppermint, *half a drachm*. Let the aloes and the ginger be rubbed together to a powder; then add the soap and the oil so as to form a mass."

In the London preparation the quantity of extract of gentian ordered is too large; for, owing to its re-action on the aloes, the mass becomes rather too soft to form into pills: at all events no syrup is required in this instance. The soap ordered in the two other formulæ is well adapted for giving consistence and form to the aloes. This is an useful pill, and is advantageously used for obviating the habitual costiveness of the sedentary, and of leucophlegmatic habits. The dose is from grs. x. to grs. xv. or more.

PILULÆ ALOES ET ASSAFÆTIDÆ. Edin. *Pills of Alöes and Assafætida.*¹

"Take of Socotorine aloes in powder, assafætida, soap, of each, *equal parts*. Beat them into a mass with mucilage of gum arabic."

These pills are anodyne and cathartic, allaying any irritability of the bowels, at the same time that they open them freely. They have been found extremely useful in dyspepsia attended with flatulence. The dose is grs. x. given twice a day.

PILULÆ ALOËS CUM MYRRHÆ. Lond. *Pills of Alöes with Myrrh.*²

"Take of extract of spiked aloes, *two ounces*; saffron, myrrh, of each *an ounce*; syrup, *a sufficient quantity*. Rub separately to powder the aloes and the myrrh; then beat all the ingredients together until they form an uniform mass."

Dublin.

"Take of hepatic aloes, *an ounce*; myrrh, *half an ounce*; saffron *two drachms*; essential oil of carraway, *half a drachm*. Rub the myrrh and the aloes separately to powder, and beat the whole together into a mass.

PILULÆ ALÖES ET MYRRHÆ. Edin. *Pills of Alöes and Myrrh.*

"Take of Socotorine aloes *four parts*; myrrh *two parts*; saffron *one part*. Beat them into a mass with simple syrup."

¹ Pilules d'Aloë avec assafœtida (F.) Pillules Bloeteche con assafetida (L.)

² Pilulæ Rufi seu communes, P. L. 1720 Pilules d'Aloë avec la Myrrh (F.) Pillote Aloetische con Mirra (L.)

These pills have been long employed to stimulate and open the bowels in chlorotic, hypochondriacal, and cachectic habits. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. given twice a day.

PILULÆ AMMONIARETI CUPRI. Edin. *Pills of Ammonia ret of Copper.*¹

"Take of ammonia ret of copper rubbed to fine powder, sixteen grains; crumb of bread, four scruples; water of carbonate of ammonia, a sufficient quantity. Beat them into a mass, and divide it into thirty-two equal pills."

This is a convenient form for the exhibition of the ammonia ret of copper, half a grain of which is contained in each of the pills. They are given in epilepsy and other spasmodic diseases. One pill given night and morning is sufficient at first; but the number may be gradually increased till five be taken for a dose.

PILULÆ CAMBO'GIÆ COMPOSITÆ. Lond. Edin. *Compound Pills of Gamboge.*

"Take of gamboge in powder, extract of spiked aloës in powder, compound powder of cinnamon, of each a drachm; soap, two drachms. Mix the powders together; then add the soap, and beat the whole together into an uniform mass."

This is considerably more active than the aloëtic pills. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. given at bed-time in obstinate costiveness.

PILULÆ COLOCYNTHIDIS COMPOSITÆ. Edin. *Compound Colocynth Pills.*

"Take Socotorine aloes, scammony, of each eight parts; colocynth pulp, four parts; sulphate of potash, oil of cloves, of each one part. Beat the extract, gum resin, and sulphate together into powder, then, with the colocynth pulp rubbed to fine powder, mix them with the oil, and, finally, beat the whole into a mass with mucilage of gum."

Dublin.

"Take of colocynth pith, half an ounce; hepatic aloes, scammony, of each one ounce; Castile soap, two drachms; oil of cloves, one drachm. Pulverize separately the aloes, scammony, and colocynth, then triturate them with the soap and oil, and form them into a mass by means of syrup."

Both these are excellent forms of purgative pills. They are more powerful in their operation than the other aloëtic pills; and do not so soon lose their power when taken for any considerable length of time in habitual costiveness.

PILULÆ FERRI COMPOSITÆ. Lond. *Pills of Iron with Myrrh.*

¹ Pilules cuivreuses de Swédiaur (F.)

"Take of myrrh in powder, *two drachms*; subcarbonate of soda, sulphate of iron, sugar, of each *a drachm*. Rub the myrrh with the subcarbonate of soda; then having added the sulphate of iron, rub again; and lastly, beat the whole into an uniform mass."

This is an useful emmenagogue pill, similar in its properties to Griffith's mixture. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. given twice or three times a day.

PILULÆ GAL'BANI COMPOSITÆ. Lond. *Compound Pills of Galbanum.*¹

"Take of galbanum, *an ounce*; myrrh, sagapenum, of each *an ounce and a half*; assafoetida, *half an ounce*; syrup, *a sufficient quantity*. Beat them together into an uniform mass."

PILULÆ ASSAFOETIDÆ COMPOSITÆ. Edin. *Compound Assafoetida Pills.*

"Take of assafoetida, galbanum, myrrh, of each *eight parts*; purified oil of amber, *one part*. Beat them into a mass with simple syrup."

PILULÆ MYRRHÆ COMPOSITÆ. Dub. *Compound Pills of Myrrh.*

"Take of assafoetida, myrrh in powder, galbanum, of each *an ounce*; oil of amber, *half a drachm*. Rub them together, and make them into a mass with simple syrup."

These preparations are useful antispasmodics and emmenagogues; and are given with advantage in chlorosis, hysteria, and hypochondriasis. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. taken every night at bed-time.

Of the three appellations employed by the Pharmacopœias, that of the Edinburgh is the least objectionable, the assafoetida being undoubtedly the most powerful article.

PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI. Lond. Dub. *Mercurial Pills.*²

"Take of purified mercury, *two drachms*; confection of red roses, *three drachms*; liquorice root in powder, *a drachm*. Rub the mercury with the confection until the globules disappear; then add the liquorice root, and beat the whole into an uniform mass."

Edinburgh.

"Take of purified mercury, conserve of the red rose, of each *an ounce*; starch, *two ounces*. Rub the mercury with the conserve in a glass mortar until the globules entirely disappear, adding, if necessary, a little mucilage of gum arabic; then add the starch, and with a little water beat the whole into a mass,

¹ Pilule gummosæ, P. L. 1720. Pilules de Galbanum composée (F.) Pillole di Galbano composta (I.)

² Pilules mercuriales (F.) Pillole mercuriale (I.)

which is to be directly divided into four hundred and eighty equal-sized pills."

One grain of mercury is contained in four grains of the mass, made according to the London and Dublin formulæ, and in three grains according to the Edinburgh.

In these preparations the mercury is first minutely divided by the viscosity of the conserve, the substance with which it is triturated: and formerly it was believed that this mechanical division was all that was effected by the trituration. It is now, however, generally, and with much probability, supposed that the metal is oxidized; and that the great extension of surface, and in some degree the substance used in the trituration, facilitate this effect. Syrup, honey, mucilage, soap, guaiac, and other matters, have been occasionally employed; but the Colleges have agreed in preferring conserve of roses; and it is not improbable that the operation is shortened by the weak acid which the conserve contains. On the continent the oil of eggs has been employed for dividing mercury¹, and certainly no substance so rapidly assists in producing the desired effect as this oil, when it has been kept for some time. In the above preparations, therefore, the mercury is nearly in the state of the black oxide, and on this combination of oxygen its activity as a remedy altogether depends. The more assiduously the trituration is continued, so as to bring the surfaces of the globules of mercury quickly and repeatedly into contact with the air, the more perfect is the preparation. The oxidization of the whole of the globules, or the extinction or killing of the mercury, as it is termed in the common language of the laboratory, is known to be completed, when on rubbing a small portion of the mass with the point of the finger on a piece of clean paper, no metallic globules are perceptible. The mass must be then immediately formed into pills, as it very rapidly becomes too hard, if allowed to remain.

Medical properties and uses. — These pills are stimulant and antisyphilitic, and are the most common form of preparation under which mercury is exhibited for the cure of venereal affections, being much less liable to act on the bowels than any of the other forms. The common dose is grs. vj. to grs. viij. or two pills, given twice a day until the mouth be affected. Larger doses are apt to excite purging.

PILULÆ HYDRARGYRI SUBMURIATIS COMPOSITÆ. Lond. Edin. *Pills of Submuriate of Mercury.*

"Take of submuriate of mercury (calomel), precipitated sulphuret of antimony, of each a drachm; guaiac gum-resin,

¹ Vide *Lond. Med. Repository*, vol. v. p. 166.

two drachms. Rub the submuriate of mercury with the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, then with the guaiac, and add a sufficient quantity of mucilage of gum to give the mass a proper consistence."

This preparation was introduced into practice by Dr. Plummer, and admitted into the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia under the name of Plummer's pill. It was, however, afterwards expunged; but as it continued to be much used in practice, the London College has now given it a place in its Pharmacopœia. It is a very useful alterative in lepra, in secondary syphilis affecting the skin, and in other cutaneous diseases. The dose is from grs. v. to grs. x. given night and morning.

PILULÆ RHEI COMPOSITÆ. Edin. *Compound Rhubarb Pills.*

"Take of rhubarb root in powder, *one ounce*; Socotorine aloes, *six drachms*; myrrh, *half an ounce*; volatile oil of peppermint, *half a drachm*. Beat them into a mass with syrup of orange peel."

This is a warm, stomachic, laxative pill, very useful for obviating costiveness, and at the same time giving tone to the bowels in dyspepsia and hypochondriasis. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. given twice a day.

PILULÆ SAPONIS CUM OPIO. Lond. *Pills of Soap and Opium.*

"Take of hard opium powdered, *half an ounce*; hard soap, *two ounces*. Beat them together into an uniform mass." Five grains contain one grain of opium.

PILULÆ OPIATÆ; olim, PILULÆ THEBAICÆ. Edin. *Opiate Pills*; formerly, *Thebaic Pills*.

"Take of opium, *one part*; extract of liquorice, *seven parts*; pimenta berries, *two parts*. Mix the opium and the extract, separately softened with diluted alcohol, and beat them into a pulp; then add the Jamaica pepper rubbed to powder, and beat the whole into a mass." Ten grains contain one grain of opium.

PILULÆ E STYRACE. Dub. *Storax Pills*.

"Take of purified storax, *three drachms*; soft purified opium, saffron, of each *a drachm*. Mix them well together by beating." Five grains contain one grain of opium.

The substances with which the opium is combined in these pills do not interfere with its operation as an anodyne, but are intended chiefly to cover its odour and taste in cases where the patient or his friends have an objection to opium; and as it is also sometimes necessary that it should not appear even

¹ Pilules de Rhubarbe composée (F.) Pillole di Rhabarbaro composta (I.)

² Pilules d'Opium (F.) Pillole d'Oppio (I.)

in the prescription, the name adopted by the Dublin College is preferable to the others. The dose of the three preparations differs, and must be regulated by the quantity of opium contained in that one which is adopted.

PILULÆ SCILLÆ COMPOSITÆ. Lond. *Compound Squill Pills.*

"Take of fresh squill root (bulb) dried and powdered, *one drachm*; ginger root powdered, hard soap, of each *three drachms*; ammoniacum powdered, *two drachms*. Mix the powders together; then beat them with the soap, as much syrup being added as will give them a proper consistence."

PILULÆ SCILLITICÆ. Edin. *Squill Pills.*

"Take of squill root (bulb) dried, and rubbed to a fine powder, *one scruple*; ammoniacum, cardamom seeds powdered, extract of liquorice, *one drachm*. Beat them with syrup into a mass."

PILULÆ SCILLÆ CUM ZINGIBERE. Dub. *Pills of Squill with Ginger.*

"Take of powder of squill, *a drachm*; ginger root in powder, *two drachms*; essential oil of anniseed, *ten drops*. Beat them together, and form them into a mass with jelly of soap."

These pills are useful expectorants in chronic catarrh, dyspnoea, and asthma; and combined with calomel and digitalis in hydropic affections. They are liable, however, to the same objections as the squill powder, the efficacy of the squill being much injured by keeping in either form; and it is perhaps better that it should be always given under an extemporaneous form, except when the tincture is used. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒj. given three or four times a day.

PILULÆ SUBCARBONATIS SODÆ. Edin. *Pills of Subcarbonate of Soda.*

Take of exsiccated subcarbonate of soda, *four parts*; hard soap, *three parts*. Beat into a mass with simple syrup.

This preparation was recommended by the late Dr. Beddoes; and has been found occasionally useful.

PILULÆ SULPHATIS FERRI COMPOSITÆ. Edin. *Compound Pills of Sulphate of Iron.*

"Take of sulphate of iron reduced to powder, *one ounce*; extract of chamomile flowers, *one ounce and a half*; oil of peppermint, *a drachm*. Beat into a mass with simple syrup."

This is a useful tonic pill, and may be given with advantage in dyspepsia and other affections in which steel is indicated. A five grain pill will contain two grains and a half of the sulphate of iron.

* Pilules de Scille (F.) Pillole Squillitiche (I.)