alcohol; after which it is allowed to remain at rest for some time, and again filtered previous to being put into the bottles in which it is intended to be preserved. The bottles should be kept in a cool cellar, and sunk up to the neck in sand.

Various other methods, also, are employed for depurating vegetable juices; but as these preparations are now almost obsolete, we do not think it necessary to detail them. By whatever means they are prepared, vegetable juices undergo chemical changes, and spontaneous decompositions from keeping, which must necessarily affect their virtues as medicines. They are therefore properly rejected from all the Pharmacopœias.

The articles given in the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia under the title *Succi spissati* being associated by the London College with the extracts, and the difference between these preparations being scarcely sufficient to constitute a generic distinction, we have thought it proper not to alter the London arrangement in this respect, and have therefore placed the whole under the title *Extracts*.

GUM RESINS.

GUMMI-RESINÆ, Lond.

"Separate OPIUM very carefully from all extraneous matters, particularly those adhering to its outside. Let it be kept in a SOFT state fit for forming pills; and in a HARD state, such as can be produced by drying it in the heat of a water-bath, capable of being rubbed into powder.

"Those GUM-RESINS are to be preferred which can be selected in such a state of purity as to require no purification. If, however, they appear to be less pure, boil them in water until they soften, and squeeze them by a press through a hempen bag: then set them aside, that the resinous part may subside. Pour off the supernatant fluid, and evaporate it by the heat of a water-bath, adding the resinous part towards the end of the operation, and mixing it intimately with the gummy part so as to form one mass.

"Those GUM-RESINS which easily liquify are to be purified by putting them into an ox bladder, and holding them in boiling water, until they become soft enough to be freed from their impurities by pressing them through a hempen bag.

"Dissolve the BALSAM OF STORAX in rectified spirit, and

strain; then distil off the spirit by a gentle heat, until the Balsam acquire a proper consistence."

Gum-resins which require to be treated in the above manner are unfit for internal use, and should be kept chiefly for forming plasters and for other external purposes. The degree of heat, although not more than sufficient for the liquefaction of the substances, is nevertheless enough to dissipate many of their odorous and volatile principles, and occasion some changes of composition. The directions for the treatment of opium are sufficient for freeing it from all the grosser impurities; and as the remedy remains unaltered, its strength is preserved unimpaired; whereas when spirit is employed, as was formerly ordered in the London Pharmacopœia, and is still ordered by the Dublin College, it always suffers in efficacy. The direction to preserve it in the soft state is injudicious; for the uniformity of strength of the preparation can rarely be determined, and must vary according as accidental circumstances evaporate more or less that fluid. Pills are easily made by beating up the powdered opium with mucilage.

OPIUM PURIFICATUM, Dub. *Purified Opium.*

Syn. Opium pur (*F.*), Mohnsaft (*G.*), Oppio puro (*I.*), Oppio puro (*S.*).

"Take of Opium cut into small pieces, *one pound;* Proof Spirit, *twelve pints.* Digest with a gentle heat and frequent agitation, until the Opium be dissolved: then filter the solution through paper, and distil it from a retort to separate the Spirit; pour out the residuary liquor, and evaporate it until the extract be of a proper thickness. Purified Opium must be kept in two states; one *soft*, proper for forming pills, and one *hard*, capable of being reduced to powder."

STYRAX PURIFICATA. Dub. *Purified Storax.*

Syn. Styrax in Körnern (*G.*), Storace depurato (*I.*).

"Digest the Storax in tepid water until it softens; then press it in a press between iron plates heated with boiling water; and, finally, separate it from the water."

In this process a considerable part of the Benzoic Acid of the Storax is dissipated by the heat of the iron plates, and the efficacy of the remedy consequently diminished. Hence the directions of the London College for purifying this substance are to be preferred.

OLEA EXPRESSA.

EXPRESSED OILS.

VEGETABLES yield two distinct species of oil, one of which s volatile at a high temperature, but the other cannot be vola-