Medical properties and uses.—This is an useful form of giving Valerian in hysterical and nervous affections, in which the stomach will not always bear the powder. The dose may be from f℥jss. to f℥ij. twice or thrice a day.

AQUA CALCIS COMPOSITA, Dub. *Compound Lime-water.*

"Take of Raspings of Guaiacum Wood, *half a pound;* Liquorice Root, sliced and bruised, *an ounce;* Sassafras Bark, bruised, *half an ounce;* Coriander Seeds, *three drachms;* Lime-water, *six pints.* Macerate without heat for two days, and strain."

This is a very inert preparation; and unless great care be taken to exclude the air completely from the vessel in which it is made, the lime-water will be decomposed.

AQUA PICIS LIQUIDÆ, Dub. *Tar Water.*

"Take of Tar, *two pints;* Water, *a gallon.* Mix, stirring with a wooden rod for a quarter of an hour; then, after the Tar shall have subsided, let the liquor be strained, and preserve it in well-corked bottles."

Water readily dissolves a portion of Tar; and is impregnated with empyreumatic oil, a small portion of resinous matter, and acetic acid, the components of the Tar. The solution has the colour of Madeira wine, and a sharp empyreumatic taste.

Medical properties and uses. — Tar water is stimulant and diuretic; but to produce the latter effect, its operation requires to be aided by bodily exercise. It may prove useful in scurvy, and some cutaneous diseases; but the reputation which it obtained on the faith of the judgment of the worthy Bishop of Cloyne[1] has long since been lost, and it is now scarcely ever employed. From 0j. to 0ij. may be taken in the course of a day.

MUCILAGINES.

MUCILAGES.

MUCILAGES, correctly speaking, are simple solutions of gum or mucus in water; but the term Mucilage, in pharmaceutical language, implies also any solution of a thick and adhesive nature, resembling in its appearance the solutions of gum.

[1] *Berkley's Siris* – passim.

MUCILAGO ACACIÆ, Lond.[1] *Mucilage of Acacia.*

"Take of Acacia Gum, in powder, *four ounces;* Boiling Water, *half a pint.* Rub the Gum with the Water, gradually added, until it form a Mucilage."

MUCILAGO ACACIÆ ARABICÆ, Edin. *Mucilage of Gum Arabic.*

"Take of Gum Arabic, in powder, *one part;* Boiling Water, *two parts.* Digest with occasional agitation, until the gum be dissolved; then strain the Mucilage through linen."

MUCILAGO GUMMI ARABICI, Dub. *Mucilage of Gum Arabic.*

"Take of Gum Arabic, in coarse powder, *four ounces;* Boiling Water, *eight ounces.* Digest with frequent agitation, until the Gum be dissolved; then strain the Mucilage through linen."

Syn. Mucilage de Gomme Arabique (*F.*), Schlieim de Arabiche Gummi (*G.*), Mucilagine de Gomma Arabica (*I.*).

The straining through linen is very necessary, as the gum is often mixed with small pieces of wood and other impurities. The mucilage thus obtained is viscid, thick, and adhesive; semipellucid, and nearly colourless, if the gum be good. It has a faint, peculiar odour, is insipid, and may be kept without altering for a considerable time; but at length it becomes sour, and acetic acid is formed. The strong acids act on it as they do on gum; but when diluted, they do not alter mucilage. Alcohol converts it into a white curd; but proof spirit produces scarcely any alteration; no change is produced by Spirit of Nitric Ether; but Sulphuric Ether and Compound Spirit of Ether precipitate a thick, white, tenacious curd. Tincture of Muriate of Iron, even when diluted, converts mucilage into a brownish or orange-coloured, insoluble jelly; and Subacetate of Lead gives a copious, dense, flaky precipitate, which is a compound of gum and oxide of lead; while no change is produced by the solutions of the following metallic substances: Superacetate of Lead, green Sulphate of Iron, Sulphate of Zinc, Oxymuriate of Mercury, and Tartarized Antimony; nor by the alkalies or the neutral salts. Mucilage, like gum, serves to combine resins, oils, and balsams with water, for which purpose, and to give tenacity to pills, it is much employed in pharmacy.

Medical properties and uses. — The properties of mucilage are the same as those of gum. (See *Part* ii.) It is the usual basis of demulcent mixtures for allaying the tickling which

[1] This appellation is certainly exceptionable. It is a mucilage of gum of the *Acacia vera.* The Edinburgh name is liable to nearly the same objection, except that the specific name of the plant is used, whereas *Acacia* is the name of the genus.

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excites cough in catarrh and phthisis [1]; and, combined with Opium and other narcotics, it is useful in diarrhœa, dysentery, calculous affections, and ardor urinæ. The dose of mucilage may be from f℥ss. to f℥j. frequently repeated.

Officinal preparations. *Mistura Guaiaci*, L. *Potio Carbonatis Calcis*, E.

MUCILAGO ASTRAGALI TRAGACANTHÆ, Edin. *Mucilage of Tragacanth.*

"Take of Gum Tragacanth, in powder, *two drachms;* Boiling Water, *eight ounces*. Macerate for twenty-four hours, and triturate the gum carefully, that it may be dissolved; then strain the mucilage through linen."

MUCILAGO GUMMI TRAGACANTHÆ, Dub. *Mucilage of Gum Tragacanth.*

"Take of Gum Tragacanth, in powder, *two drachms;* Water, *eight fluid ounces*. Macerate in a covered vessel until the gum be dissolved; then strain the mucilage through linen."

Syn. Mucilage de Gomme Adraganthe (*F.*), Schlieim de Traganth (*G.*), Mucilagine di Gomma Adragante (*I.*).

Tragacanth treated in this manner forms a thick, soft, very viscid mucilage, but the diffusion in the water is not uniform; nor does it become so even when boiled. The water separates from the Tragacanth, on standing; and this separation is increased, if mucilage of gum be mixed with the Tragacanth. It may be used in the same cases as mucilage of Gum Arabic; and has been recommended by M. Blaire, a French surgeon, as a remedy in burns. He directs linen rags, or bibulous paper, soaked in the mucilage, to be applied over the affected part, which must be also kept moist with the mucilage for some days. [2] It is chiefly employed for making pills and troches.

MUCILAGO AMYLI, Lond., Edin., Dub. *Mucilage of Starch.*

"Take of Starch, *three drachms;* Water, *a pint*. Rub the Starch, gradually adding the water to it; then boil till a mucilage be produced."

Starch thus treated forms a strong, insipid, inodorous, opaline-coloured, gelatinous mucilage. In cases of phthisis, hectic fever, and abrasions of the stomach, it is given as a demulcent by the mouth; but it is more generally, and more advantageously exhibited in the form of enema in diarrhœa, dysentery, and abrasions of the rectum. It is the common vehicle for exhibiting Opium in the form of enema.

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[1] ℞ Mucilaginis Acaciæ f℥j. Olei Amygdalarum, Syrupi Papaveris Albi, ā ā f℥ss., Aquæ f℥iv., Acidi Citrici q. s. ad gratam acidulat. M. ut fiat mistura cujus sumat æger cochl. med. unum subindè.

[2] Vide *London Med. Repository*, vol. iii. p. 257.