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 proposed[1], 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 that the preparations are less nauseous, and, what is a still greater advantage, are always of a determinate strength. Two of the British Colleges still order medicated wines to be prepared after the old method; and when the vegetable products which are to be taken up are of an alkaline nature, as morphia, veratria, &c. it is still the best method. They should be kept in very well corked bottles, and in a cool situation. By the general term Wines, however, the London College, now designates preparations, the menstrua of which are dilute spirits of different degrees of strength. Admitting that this were a judicious change, we cannot avoid criticising the absurdity of the title *Vina*, when applied to preparations which do not contain one drop of wine; but, as will be seen in the sequel, the change is not so generally advantageous as might be expected, from its adoption by the College.

TABLE of the Quantity of Proof Spirit and Water ordered by the London College, for the Preparation of the Wines.[2]

Names of the Wines.	Proof Spirit.	Water.
Vinum Alöes	1 part	1 part.
——— Colchici	1 part	2 parts.
——— Ferri	1 part	1½ parts.
——— Ipecacuanhæ	1 part	1⅔ parts.
——— Opii	1 part	1⅔ parts.
——— Veratri	1 part	1½ parts.

[1] *Annales de Chimie*, lii. 46.
[2] Vide *Phillips' Trans. of the Pharm.* 1824.

VINUM ALOES, Lond. *Wine of Aloes.*

"Take of Extract of Spiked Aloes, *eight ounces;* Canella Bark, *two ounces;* Proof Spirit, Distilled Water, of each, *four pints.* Rub the extract to powder with white sand previously freed from impurities; rub the Canella Bark also into powder, and on these, mixed together, pour the Water and Spirits. Macerate for fourteen days, frequently shaking the vessel containing the mixture, and afterwards strain."

Dublin.

"Take of Socotorine Aloes, *four ounces;* Canella Alba, *an ounce;* Spanish White Wine, *three pints;* Proof Spirit, *a pound.* Let the Aloes and the Canella, 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 ALOES SOCOTORINÆ, Edin. *Wine of Socotorine Aloes.*

"Take of Socotorine Aloes 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."

Syn. Vin d'Aloé (*F.*), Vino Aloetico (*I.*).

Wine is an excellent solvent of Aloes, and, therefore, the two latter formulæ contain all the virtues of the remedy in a more concentrated state than the formula of the London College. The sand ordered by the London College is intended to facilitate the pulverization of the aloes; but, although it does not in the least affect the solution, yet, it is seldom used; for by cutting the aloes into small pieces, and exposing them to the air, they become sufficiently pulverulent. It is preferable, when the formula of the London College is ordered, to use the water boiling hot; and, after the solution is cold, to add the spirits.

Medical properties and uses. — Wine of aloes 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 f℥j. to f℥ij. to act as a stomachic, and from f℥ss. to f℥ij. to produce purging.

Aloes are advantageously combined with alkalies; and in this state I have long been in the habit of employing a wine containing aloes and myrrh, in dyspepsia and chlorosis; and, also, in that affection of the mesenteric glands in children which produces a tumid and tense abdomen. The following is the formula I employ, which was copied, with some modification, from a very old pharmacopœia, that accidentally fell into my hands; but of the date of which, I have unfortunately preserved no memorandum.

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℞ Sodæ subcarbonatis ʒiij.
Ammoniæ carbonatis ʒivss.
Myrrhæ ʒvj.
Aloes extracti ʒvj.
Vini Albi (*Sherry, Anglice*) fʒxxiv.
Macera per dies septem et cola.

The dose is from one fluid drachm to half a fluid ounce.

VINUM COLCHICI, Lond. *Wine of Colchicum.*

"Take of the Fresh Root (*bulb*) of Colchicum bruised, *two ounces;* Proof Spirit, *twelve fluid ounces;* Distilled Water, *twenty fluid ounces.* Macerate for fourteen days, and filter."

The medicinal power of the bulb of Colchicum depends on an alkaline principle which, as it is also found in white hellebore, Veratrum *album*, has been named Veratria. It is combined, in the bulbs of Colchicum, with a large quantity of starch, some mucilage and gluten, and much water, the proportion of the last of which differs considerably in different bulbs, according to the moist or dry nature of the soil in which the bulbs have grown or been reared, and the season of the year, in which they are dug up for use. On these considerations we must object to the above formula, inasmuch as the strength of the preparation must always be uncertain when the recent bulb is employed. The quantity of water, also, which the bulb contains in its fresh state, tends to dilute the spirit to a greater degree than is intended in the formula; and, consequently, to weaken its solvent power over the veratria, which is very sparingly soluble in water. When, on the contrary, the dried bulb, taken up at a proper season, is employed, as the proportions of starch, gum, and gluten are nearly always the same, the strength of the preparation is more likely to be uniform. But, independent of the state of the bulb, the London formula is injudicious in substituting diluted spirit for sherry wine, which is a much better solvent of the veratria, owing to the tartaric acid of the tartrate of potass, and a small quantity of acetic acid which it contains. The following is the formula which we recommend for the preparation of the Wine of *Colchicum.* Take of the Bulbs of Colchicum (dug up in July or August) sliced transversely, and dried without heat, or at a temperature not exceeding 110°, *one ounce and a half;* pulverise them and pour upon the powder put into a glass-bottle, *twelve ounces* of good Sherry Wine. Agitate the mixture twice a day for seven days, and then filter for use.

Medical properties and uses. — Wine of Colchicum, whether prepared according to the formula of the London College, or with the dried bulb and with wine, is a powerful sedative and purgative. It is adminstered with great advantage in inflam-

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matory and painful nervous affections, connected with a disordered state of the liver; as for example, gout and acute rheumatism, diminishing the force and frequency of the pulse, allaying the pain, and cutting short the paroxysm: but, it rarely produces a permanently favourable result without stimulating the duodenum and biliary ducts, and producing a copious discharge of bilious stools. It is apt to nauseate the stomach, a property which is greatly subdued by combining it with magnesia: but in some habits even this does not correct its nauseating qualities, and its use is followed by great faintness and depression of nervous power. The dose of wine of Colchicum is from ℥xxx. to f℥jss. given in conjunction with Magnesia in the effervescing draught, or with infusion of Cinchona bark, Gentian root, or any other bitter.

The seeds of Colchicum possess the same medicinal properties as the bulb; and the wine may be made by digesting *two ounces* of the unbruised seeds in *two pints* of sherry wine, for eight days.

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

"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 bark sliced and bruised; and after twenty-four hours add the Wine; then macerate for seven days, and strain."

Syn. Vin de Gentiane composé (*F.*), Vino di Genziana composto (*I.*).

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

VINUM IPECACUANHÆ, Lond. *Wine of Ipecacuanha.*

"Take of Ipecacuanha Root bruised, *two ounces;* Proof Spirit, *twelve fluid ounces;* Distilled Water, *twenty fluid ounces.* 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."

Syn. Vin d'Ipecacuanha (*F.*), Vino con Ipecacuana (*I.*).

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[1], is more soluble in acetic acid than in any other menstruum, the acescency of the wine is no objection. Dr. Irvine says, that 30 grains of the root administered in f℥ij. of vinegar produced only some loose stools; but, if acetate of emetin produces vomiting, what is the cause of the inertness of this mixture? Does the solution of the starch, and the gum in the acid form a substance, which obtunds the action of the acetate of emetin? As an emetic, Ipecacuanha wine is equally efficacious with antimonial wine, and at the same time is milder in its operation, and is, therefore, better adapted for infants. For this purpose a tea-spoonful, or f℥ss. is given for a dose, and repeated every ten minutes till it operate. In smaller doses, from ♏x. to ♏xx., 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 effect in dropsies, colica pictonum and ileus. The dose is from ♏x, to ♏xxx. in any proper vehicle.

VINUM OPII, Lond. Edin. *Wine of Opium.*[2]

"Take of Extract of Opium, *an ounce;* Cinnamon Bark bruised, Cloves bruised, of each, *a drachm;* Proof Spirit, *six fluid ounces;* Distilled Water, *ten fluid ounces.* Macerate for eight days (seven days, *Edin.*), and filter."

Syn. Vin d'Opium aromatique (*F.*), Vino aromo opiato (*I.*).

The aromatics which 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. It is intended to supply the place of the liquid laudanum of Sydenham; but that preparation contained double the quantity of opium, and ℥j. of Saffron, which is altogether omitted in the formulæ of the colleges.[3] Mr. Ware

[1] Emetin was discovered by M M. Dumas and Pelletier; and according to their analysis it consists of Carbon 64·57, Azote 4·30, Hydrogen 7·77, and Oxygen 22·95, in 100 parts.

[2] Laudanum liquidum Sydenhami, P. L. 1020.

[3] The following is Sydenham's formula. ℞ Vini Hispanici ℔. j. Opii ℥ij. Croci ℥j. pulv. Cinnamomi et Caryophyllarum ā. ā. ℥j. Infundantur simul in B. M. per duas vel tres dies, donec liquor debitam consistentiam acquirat: Colitura servetur pro usu. *Sydenhami opera omnia*, Lond. 1705, p. 147.

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introduced the use of this preparation made with wine as a local application in the second stage of ophthalmia; when the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, and the vessels of the conjunctiva remain turgid with red blood. Two or three drops are poured into the eye every morning, until the redness be removed.

VINUM RHEI, Edin. *Wine of Rhubarb.*

"Take of Rhubarb Root sliced, *two ounces;* Canella 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 f℥ss. to f℥j. or more.

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

"Take of White Hellebore Root bruised, *eight ounces;* Proof Spirit, *a pint;* Distilled Water, *a pint and a half.* Macerate for fourteen days, and filter."

A solution of White Hellebore in Wine is supposed to form one of the ingredients of the Eau Medicinale; and this opinion, although it is unfounded, inasmuch as White Hellebore is not an ingredient of the French nostrum, yet is correct in some degree; inasmuch as the active principle of Colchicum, the plant used in preparing Eau Medicinale, is *Veratria*, which is also the active principle of White Hellebore, in which it is combined with gallic acid.[1] I have no doubt that a vinous preparation of White Hellebore, exhibited with due caution, would answer every purpose of the *Wine of Colchicum.* Wine of White Helebore is seldom employed.

The dose is ten minims gradually increased to thirty.

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, the alkaloid principles on which the efficacy of Squill and Colchicum depend. As a solvent, however, of vegetable matter, the use of Vinegar cannot be extended, for it destroys the medicinal properties of some vegetable principles, and does not accord with others in

[1] Veratria, like the other newly discovered vegetable alkalies, is a compound substance; and, according to the analysis of Dumas and Pelletier, consists of Carbon 66·75, Azote 5·04, Hydrogen 8·54, and Oxygen 19·60, in 100 parts.

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