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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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."

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

This preparation has a pleasant, pungent, aromatic odour. It is a solution of the volatile oils of the substances employed in vinegar, and is a grateful perfume in sick-rooms; but has no right to be regarded as a neutralizer of febrile, or other contagions. It is nearly the same as the old preparation, known under the name of *Thieves' Vinegar;* with the deficiency of *Lignum Rhodii*, *Santalum album*, *Fœniculi Semina*, *Absinthium*, and Mentha *piperita;* but these add nothing to its medicinal powers. The dose is from f℥ss. f℥j. in any bland fluid.

ACIDUM ACETICUM CAMPHORATUM, Edin. ACIDUM ACETICUM CAMPHORATUM, Dub. *Camphorated Acetic Acid.*

"Take of Acetic Acid, *six ounces;* Camphor, *half an ounce.* Rub the camphor to powder with the assistance of a little Alcohol; then dissolve it in the Acid.

Syn. Acide acetique Camphré (*F.*), Aceto Canforato (*I.*).

The strong acetic acid readily dissolves a considerable portion of camphor; and forms a very highly pungent and stimulating perfume, which, snuffed up the nostrils, is useful in syncope and nervous languors. Owing to its extreme volatility when well prepared, it requires to be preserved in phials closely fitted with ground-glass stoppers.

ACETUM COLCHICI, Lond. *Vinegar of Meadow Saffron.*

"Take of Fresh Meadow Saffron Root (bulb) sliced, *an ounce;* Acetic Acid (distilled vinegar), *a pint;* Proof Spirit, *a fluid ounce.* Macerate the Meadow Saffron Root with the Vinegar in a covered glass vessel for twenty-four hours; then express, and set the liquor aside that the fæculencies may subside; lastly, add the Spirit to the clear liquor."

The bulb of the meadow-saffron is the part intended to be ordered, not the root. When dug up in July, the bulb contains that principle for which it is employed in the greatest perfection, and of which vinegar is a good solvent. This

solution is now introduced as a better form of preserving the virtues of the remedy than the oxymel. It is given as a diuretic in ascites and hydrothorax; but is less to be depended on than the squill. Like the preparation termed *Vinum Colchici*, it should be prepared with the dried bulb, in which case the proportion should be six drachms to a pint of vinegar. It is employed in gout. The dose is from f℥ss. to f℥j. united with any bland fluid.

ACETUM SCILLÆ, Lond. *Vinegar of Squill.*

"Take of Fresh Squill Root (bulb) dried, *a pound;* Acetic Acid (distilled vinegar), *six pints;* Proof Spirit, *half a pint.* Macerate the Squill Root (bulb) in the Vinegar with a gentle heat, in a covered vessel, for twenty-four hours; then express the liquor, and set it aside that the fæculencies may subside; lastly, add the Spirit to the clear liquor."

ACIDUM ACETICUM SCILLITICUM, Edin. *Vinegar of Squill.*

"Take of Squill Root (bulb) dried, *one ounce;* Distilled Vinegar, *fifteen ounces;* Alcohol, *one ounce and a half.* Macerate the Squill with the Acid for seven days; then express the liquor, and add to it the Alcohol: and when the fæculencies have subsided, pour off the clear fluid."

ACETUM SCILLÆ, Dub. *Vinegar of Squill.*

"Take of Fresh Squill Root (bulb) dried, *half a pound;* Wine Vinegar, *three pints;* Rectified Spirit, *four fluid ounces.* Digest the Squill with the Vinegar for four days in a glass vessel, with frequent agitation; then express the Vinegar, and after the fæculencies have subsided, add to it the Spirit."

Syn. Vinaigre scillitique (*F.*), Meerzwiebelessig (*G.*).

Vinegar extracts and holds in solution the *Scillitina*, the active principle of the squill, upon which its efficacy as a remedy depends. This preparation has long been used as an expectorant and diuretic in chronic catarrh, humoral asthma, and dropsies. The dose is from f℥ss. to f℥ij. given in cinnamon or mint-water. In large doses it produces vomiting; and is occasionally used as an emetic in the above diseases, when the stomach is loaded.

When kept, the Vinegar of Squill deposits a precipitate, which consists of citrate of lime and tannin.[1]

Officinal preparations. *Oxymel Scillæ*, L. *Syrupus Scillæ*, E.

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[1] Vogel. *Annales de Chimie*, vol. lxxxiii. p. 157.

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