PRÆPARATA EX ANIMALIBUS.

PREPARATIONS FROM ANIMALS.

THE substances of this division are few in number, and are not remedies of much efficacy.

ADEPS PRÆPARATA, Lond. *Prepared Lard.*[1]

" Cut the Fat into small fragments; then melt it by a gentle heat, and press it through linen."

ADEPS SUILLUS PRÆPARATUS, Dub. *Prepared Hog's Lard.*

" Let Fresh Lard, cut into small pieces, be melted by a moderate heat, and strained by pressing it through a linen cloth.

" Lard, which is prepared by the dealers, and is preserved with salt, is to be melted with twice its weight of boiling water, and the mixture well stirred: it is then to be allowed to cool, when the lard may be separated."

SEVUM PRÆPARATUM, Lond. *Prepared Suet.*[2]

" Cut the Suet in pieces; then melt it by a gentle heat, and press it through linen."

The properties of Lard and Suet have been already detailed. (*Part* ii.) The above processes are intended to purify them; but, in order to obtain them very pure, it is necessary that they be washed in water until the water come off colourless, before they be melted. Any water that may remain attached to the fat is evaporated during the melting; and that it is all evaporated, is known by throwing a little of the melted fat into the fire, when it will crackle if any water be present. The heat must not be raised above 97°, the melting point of fat; as otherwise the fat is decomposed, rendered acrid, and assumes a yellow colour. This purification is seldom attempted by the apothecary, as both kinds of fat can be procured very well purified from the dealers. To keep lard clean, and preserve it from the action of the air, it is generally run into bladders while in the liquid state.

CORNU USTUM, Lond. *Burnt Hartshorn.*[3]

" Burn pieces of Hart's horn in an open fire until they become thoroughly white; then powder them, and prepare them in the manner directed for the preparation of chalk."

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[1] Adeps Suillæ preparata, P. L. 1787.
[2] Sevum Ovillum preparatum, P. L. 1787.
[3] Cornu Cervi ustum, P. L. 1787.

From the Latin title given to this preparation, one might be led to suppose that any kind of horn would serve as a substitute for Hart's horn, which is intended to be designated: but the properties of Hart's horn are more similar to those of bone than of the horns of other animals, the chief difference being in the proportion of cartilage, which is greater in the Hart's horn than in bone.

In performing this operation the fire must not be too violent, as the horn is apt to suffer a species of vitrification of the surface, when exposed to a very strong heat, which prevents the internal parts from being completely burnt. The residue of 100 parts of Hart's horn consists, after the burning, of 57·5 of Phosphate of Lime, one of Carbonate of Lime, and a minute portion of Phosphate of Magnesia.

Medical properties and uses. — Phosphate of Lime is perfectly inert when taken into the stomach; and the analysis of burnt Hart's horn has clearly proved, that the former idea of its antacid properties was erroneous. It has been proposed as a remedy in rickets and mollities ossium; but we cannot easily conceive how it can be taken up by the absorbents, and thrown upon the bones; and experience has not yet confirmed the utility of burnt Hart's horn for any purpose as a remedy.

Officinal preparation. *Mistura Cornu usti*, L.

SPONGIA USTA, Lond. *Burnt Sponge.*

"Cut Sponge into small pieces and bruise it, in order to free it from any adhering extraneous substances; then burn it in a covered iron vessel, until it become black and friable; finally, rub it to a very fine powder."

The properties of fresh sponge have been already noticed: when burnt, the residue consists of carbonate and phosphate of lime, subcarbonate of soda, iodine, and charcoal. The active ingredients are the subcarbonate of soda and the iodine.

Medical properties and uses. — Burnt Sponge is tonic, deobstruent, and antacid. It has been much recommended in bronchocele, scrophulous affections, and herpetic eruptions: and I have witnessed its efficacy in schirrhous testicle, when given in combination with Cinchona Bark. It seems to derive its efficacy from the Iodine it contains. (*See Appendix*, No. 2.) The dose is from ʒj. to ʒiij. mixed into the form of an electuary, with powdered cinnamon and honey. In bronchocele the patient is directed to swallow the portion of electuary very slowly, from a supposition that some local effect is produced.

TESTÆ PRÆPARATA, Lond. *Prepared Shells.*

"Wash the Shells with Boiling Water, having previously

freed them from extraneous matters, then prepare them in the manner directed for the preparation of chalk."

OSTREARUM TESTÆ PRÆPARATÆ, Dub. *Prepared Oyster Shells.*

"These are to be prepared in the same manner as chalk."

OVORUM TESTÆ PRÆPARATÆ, Dub. *Prepared Egg Shells.*

"These are to be prepared in the same manner as chalk."

Both in oyster and egg shells the predominating ingredient is carbonate of lime, and therefore these prepared shells do not differ from chalk, except in containing a small portion of gelatin or albumen. But as this does not in any degree affect their medicinal properties, which are exactly the same as those of chalk, they might well be spared from the list of preparations. The dose is from grs. x. to ʒij. or more.

EMPLASTRA.

PLASTERS.

THESE are solid, tenaceous compounds, adhesive in the ordinary heat of the human body. The base of the majority of plasters is a chemical combination of the semivitreous oxide of lead and oil; but some of them owe their consistence to wax and resin; and others contain no oily nor fatty matter whatsoever. Deyeux proposes [1] to confine the name of plasters to the combinations of metallic oxides with oils or fat; and to give those not containing oxides, the term solid ointments; but this definition would include among the plasters some of the ointments, and exclude many of the plasters.

Plasters should not adhere to the hand when cold; they should be easily spread when heated; and should remain tenacious and pliant after they are spread; but should not be so soft as to run when heated by the skin. All plasters become too consistent and brittle when long kept; but in this case, those which are unctuous may be re-melted by a gentle heat, and some oil added to them. They are usually formed into rolls, which are wrapped in paper; and when they are to be used, they are melted and spread on leather, calico, linen, or silk. Those which contain metallic oxides ought to be melted by boiling water, for in a greater degree of heat the fatty matter is apt to reduce the oxide.

[1] *Annales de Chimie*, xxxiii. 52.