

brown, somewhat translucent, but not transparent, in tears of an irregular form, but these sometimes broken, and it is also light.

Medicinally it is a warm aromatic, tonic, stimulant, and expectorant, also diaphoretic, and said to be emenagogue. The dose is gr. x to ʒj along with nitrate of potass, camphor, or alkaline sulphates, for chlorosis, dyspepsia, hysteria, humoral asthma, catarrh, amenorrhœa atonica, fœtid belchings, &c. Externally it is used in form of tincture, &c., for spongy gums, aphthæ, and for gangrenous, carious, and fistulous sores. It is often used in stimulant compounds.

MYRTLE. *Myrtus communis*. P. The leaves and berries are aromatic, warm, and astringent, and are sometimes prescribed in profluvia.

By the perfumer myrtle-leaves are used for herb snuff, and myrtle water. The leaves should be fresh from the tree, and the common sort are always to be preferred to any of those called the sweet-smelling sorts.

MYRTLE WATER. Macerate ℥j of fresh myrtle-leaves, or twigs, in a gallon of soft water, and after it has stood a day, add ʒj or more of good yeast. Let it stand other two days, and then put it into a retort with ʒij of bay salt; draw off all the water, to which add more fresh leaves or twigs, and proceed as at first, repeating this process three or four times. It ought to be kept well stopped, and in a place neither too warm nor too cold.

Poisonous, producing burning of the throat, thirst, pain of the stomach, convulsions, and death. The best treatment is a smart emetic, followed by castor oil, or saline purgatives and mucilaginous drinks.

MYRRHUS. See PIMENTÆ BACCÆ.

N.

NANCEIC ACID. This is procured from sour rice and other ascendent vegetable substances, and is without colour, does not crystallize, and tastes very sour. It is named by Bracconot in honour of the town of Nancy, where he resides.

NAPHTHA is a fine transparent, colourless, or pale yellow fluid, found natural in some parts of Persia, issuing out of clay soils. A substance little different is procured by distillation from coal tar. The odour is penetrating, and not disagreeable. Its chief use is chemical. It is used for preserving potassium from oxidizing. It is used externally as a stimulant, &c.

NAPHTHALINE is a white crystalline body procured by gentle distillation from coal tar.

NARCISSUS PSEUDO-NARCISSUS. P. Daffodil. The flowers are aromatic and antispasmodic, but are little used.

NARCOTICS are drugs which usually produce, first a stimulant effect on the circulation, and on the nervous energy, and this is, of course, followed by a collapse, which commonly terminates in sleep: hence they have also been called *hypnotics* and *soporifics*. From the sensations also being weakened and blunted during the collapse, pain is less felt; and hence they have been called *anodynes* and *sedatives*. Such is the most probable theory; but all stimulants that are followed by collapse, do not induce sleep, nor ease pain; and consequently, unless they do so, they are not considered narcotics.

NARCOTINE. *New.* A chemical principle, sometimes called *Opiane*, and the *Salt of Derosnes*, from the discoverer. To prepare it, digest opium in sulphuric ether to form a tincture, filter, and evaporate, till crystals form, which are the narcotine, along with a little oil and caoutchouc. It is without smell or taste, and has no action on vegetable colours.

Insoluble in water, very sparingly soluble in alcohol, but more soluble in boiling ether.

Medicinally it is supposed to have the stimulant without the sedative effects of opium, but has not been much used.

NARDUS INDICUS VULGARIS. P. Spikenard. The root of this plant is bitter, aromatic, cardiac, stomachic, and is sometimes prescribed in asthenia, and dyspepsia.

NASTURTIIUM. *Cress.* A genus of plants, whose properties are reputed antiscorbutic, though it does not appear that they are greatly more so than other fresh vegetables, except from their being slightly stimulant.

NATRON. O. The name formerly given to soda; hence the sulphate of soda was called *Natron vitriolatum*; the carbonate of soda, *Natron præparatum*; and the tartrate of soda and potass (Rochelle salts), *Natron tartarizatum*.

NECKLACES of Vervain roots, tied with a yard of white satin ribbon, have been recommended for the cure of scrofula; of peony root for epilepsy; of henbane root, &c., for the teething of children; and of stick-sulphur for rheumatism. It is obvious that these must be very feeble in their operation, if they operate at all. The sulphur does appear to have some influence, probably from its being taken up in small quantity by cutaneous absorption. The anodyne necklaces, sold at a high price, are unquestionably inert and useless.

NECTAR. A liqueur, so called, is made with 15 gallons of red ratafia, 3ss each of oil of cinnamon and of caraway-seeds, dissolved in half a pint of spirit of wine. Put this into a twenty-gallon cask, and fill

it up with orange wine, adding sugar to sweeten it according to taste.

NEPENTHE. A drug, which, according to Homer, the beautiful Helen mingled with wine, to soothe the cares and promote the mirth of the guests of Menelaus. It is highly probable that it was opium. Hence the old Pharmacopæia called the common opiate pills *Nepenthes opiatum*.

NEPHRITICS are medicines which act upon the kidneys.

NEROLI is the essential oil of orange-flowers, and is a very fine, delicate, and expensive perfume, often adulterated with inferior matters.

NERVINE, a medicine which relieves nervous affections.

NETTLE. *Urtica*. A common native plant, which was formerly used as an astringent, but has fallen into neglect. Dr. Withering says, that a leaf put on the tongue, and pressed against the roof of the mouth, will stop epistaxis. Palsied limbs are sometimes switched with nettles, as an external irritant. In spring it is a good potherb.

NICOTIANA. See **TABACI FOLIA**.

NICOTINE. *New*. The active principle of tobacco is procured by a process similar to that of obtaining Daturine, &c. It is powerfully poisonous; but has not yet been employed in medicine.

NIGELLA SATIVA. *P.* Fennel Flower. The seeds are aromatic, stimulant, sialagogue, emmenagogue, anthelmintic, errhine, acrid, laxative, and

Poisonous, when taken in quantity, producing similar symptoms to the ranunculus acris. The *nigella arvensis* has similar qualities.

NIHIL ALBUM. Oxide of Zinc. See **ZINCI OXYDUM**.

NINSENG, or *Ninzi*. The root of the *Sium ninsi*. *P.* Was formerly confounded with ginseng, and is a good aromatic bitter, used in marasmus and asthenia. In China it is reckoned aphrodisiac.

NITRAS ARGENTI. See **ARGENTI NITRAS**.

NITRAS POTASSÆ. See **POTASSÆ NITRAS**.

NITRE. *Salt Petre*. See **POTASSÆ NITRAS**.

NITRATE OF BISMUTH. See **BISMUTHI SUBNITRAS**.

NITRIC ACID, or *Aqua fortis*. See **ACIDUM NITRICUM. L.**

NITRICO-OXYDUM HYDRARGYRI. See **HYDRARGYRI NITR. OXYD.**

NITROGEN. See **AZOTE**.

NITRO-LEUCIC ACID. This is formed by treating leucine with nitric acid. (*BRACCONOT.*)

NITRO-MURIATIC ACID. *Aqui regia. O.* See **ACIDUM NITRO-MURIATICUM**.

NITRO-SACCHARIC ACID. This is procured from the sugar of gelatine and nitric acid by means of heat.

NITROUS ACID. See **ACIDUM NITROSUM**.

NITRUM. O. Nitrate of Potass. See POTASSÆ NITRAS.

NORFOLK FLUID. Take three pints of linseed oil, ʒiv of yellow resin, ʒij of frankincense, ʒxij of yellow wax; melt together, and add two pints of neat's-foot oil, and one pint of oil of turpentine. If it were coloured with ivory or lamp black, it would form an oil blacking for shoes, which it softens.

NORRIS'S DROPS. A nostrum prepared by dissolving tartar emetic in rectified spirit, disguised with some vegetable colouring matter. Dr. Paris found no indications of opium.

NORTON'S DROPS. A nostrum composed of corrosive sublimate, disguised like the preceding.

NOSTRUM. A term applied to medicinal preparations, the composition of which is kept secret by the proprietors. The word, indeed, originally signifies *ours*, or *our property*; but is now usually taken in a bad sense, for an imposition.

NOUFFLEUR'S RECEIPT FOR WORMS. The following is the celebrated remedy, the receipt of which was purchased from Madame Nouffleur, by Louis XV., for a large sum of money, and published. Powder very finely, for one dose, ʒiij of the male fern, *Aspidium filix mas*, and after the patient has been prepared the previous night by an emollient clyster, and a supper of panada, this is to be taken early in the morning, fasting: two hours after a bolus is to be given, made with gr. xij each of calomel and scammony, and gr. v of gamboge. This, as Dr. Good remarks, will probably kill either the tapeworm or the patient!

NOYAU. A celebrated liqueur. Take a gallon and a half of the best French brandy, ʒvj of French prunes, ʒij of celery, ʒiij of the kernels of apricots, nectarines, or peaches, ʒj of bitter almonds, all gently bruised; two dwts. each of essence of orange and of lemon-peel, and lbss of loaf sugar; digest for a fortnight, decant, and add as much rose water as will make up two gallons.

Dangerous when drank in any quantity, as it contains prussic acid. See ACIDUM HYDROCYANICUM.

Imitated by adding essence of bitter almonds, or a few drops of prussic acid, with essence of lemon-peel, and oil of rhodium, to brandy, till it is of the requisite flavour, and then sweetening it with sugar.

NUT. A term applied to fruits which have a hard shell, and a farinaceous oily kernel.

NUTGALLS. See GALLÆ.

NUTMEG. See MYRISTICÆ NUCLEI.

Essence of Nutmeg is made by bruising ʒiij of nutmeg, and steeping it for a fortnight in a quart of brandy; shake it occasionally, and then, after it has settled, pour off the clear liquor.

NUT OIL is prepared by expression from filberts, or hazel-nuts; and, as it is without smell, it is much used in perfumery, as a substitute for oil of ben, and also by painters for mixing their colours.

NUX MOSCHATA. See MYRISTICÆ NUCLEI.

NUX VOMICA. P. The fruit of the *Strychnos nux vomica*, D. Ratsbane, or Poison-nut. The wood is also used. *Nux vomica* is a bitter tonic and stimulant, with a tendency to affect more particularly the spinal marrow and its nerves. It is also vermifuge and emmenagogue. It is given in doses of gr. ij to ℥j, cautiously increasing the dose in mania, epilepsy, chorea, paralysis, tænia, amenorrhœa; as well as in scrofula, gout, syphilis, &c.

It contains STRYCHNINE and BRUCINE, which see.

Poisonous in large doses, producing feelings similar to tipsiness, giddiness, nausea, vomiting, retching, thirst, spasms, and cramps of the limbs, oppressed breathing, fainting, coma, and death. The best treatment is to promote vomiting, and even to give a vomit of sulphate of copper instantly. Copious draughts of vinegar and water, or any other vegetable acid, will also do good; and if there is much stupor, the affusion of cold water may be tried. There is no test yet discovered for it.

Employed to adulterate spirituous and malt liquors; and enters into most of the compositions sold under various names by brewers' druggists.

NYMPHÆA. P. The Waterlily. The roots of several species of which, such as the *N. alba*, and *N. lutea*, are used medicinally, as aromatic astringents and refrigerants. The dose is ʒss to ʒj of the distilled water. A syrup is also made of the flowers, which is said to be antaphrodisiac, but this is not probable.

O.

OAK BARK. See QUERCUS CORTEX.

OAK (POISON). See TOXICODENDRI FOLIA.

OATS. See AVENÆ SEMINA.

OCHRE. A general term applied to pulverulent clays. It is nearly synonymous with the term **BOLE**. *Red ochre* and *Yellow ochre* are the chief, and ought to be chosen of a fine colour, as free from sandy or gritty matter as possible. The colours chiefly depend on the presence of an oxide of iron, or some other metal.

OCULI CANCRORUM. Crabs' Eyes. See CANCRI CHELÆ.

ODONTALGIC. A medicine which relieves or cures tooth-ache.

ODONTON. A nostrum advertised as a dentifrice.