

quick and sinking pulse, or tremor.<sup>1</sup> A few glasses, and these even diluted with water, given in the space of twenty-four hours, will often produce all that is required from wine: but sometimes very large quantities are necessary. In a case of symptomatic tetanus, mentioned by Currie<sup>2</sup>, five bottles of Madeira wine were taken every day for some time, without producing the least symptoms of ebriety, or morbidly exciting the pulse; but on the contrary, with the utmost advantage in allaying irritation, and relieving the patient. In ordinary cases of fevers, however, wine is, perhaps, in general too freely given, so as to occasion exhaustion instead of supporting strength.

ULMUS. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* i. 1324.

Cl. 5. Ord. 2. Pentandria Digynia. Nat. ord. Scabridæ Linn. Amentaceæ Juss.

G. 505. Calyx five-cleft. Corolla none. Capsule (samara) compressed, membranaceous.

Species 1. *U. campestris*. Common Elm. *Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 710. t. 242. *Smith Flora Brit.* i. 281.

Officinal. ULMI CORTEX. Lond. ULMI CAMPESTRIS CORTEX. Edin.

ULMUS; CORTEX INTERIOR. Dub. Elm bark.

Syn. Orme (F.) Ulminde (G.) Olmo (I.) Olmo (S.)

The elm-tree is indigenous, and very abundantly cultivated, flowering early in April, before the leaves are unfolded. It grows to a considerable height, sending off strong, spreading, lateral branches; with the bark of the trunk very rough and cracked, but that of the younger branches smooth and tough. The leaves are rough on both sides, villose beneath along the veins, serrate, longer on one side of the midrib than on the other, about three inches long, two broad, and of a dark-green colour. The flowers are in distinct gems, clustered, scarcely peduncled, numerous, small, of a brownish flesh colour, and have a violet odour. The capsules are oblong.

The inner part of the bark of the younger branches, which is of a yellowish colour, is the part officinally used, and is sold freed from the epidermis.

*Qualities.*—Elm-bark is inodorous, and has a slightly bitter slimy taste. When boiled in a small quantity of water it forms a thick dark-brown coloured decoction, which gelatinizes as it cools; and when evaporated leaves a brittle semi-transparent substance, soluble in water, but insoluble in alcohol and ether, to which, however, it imparts a brownish colour. The brittle residue, when treated in the same manner as Klaproth treated the gum-like exudation from the *Ulmus nigra*, afforded nearly

<sup>1</sup> Moore's Medical Sketches.

<sup>2</sup> Reports on Water, i. 174.

<sup>3</sup> Πιττα Græcorum.

the same results<sup>1</sup>; but from the effects of some re-agents (see *Decoction*,) I am inclined to regard it as a peculiar modification of mucus, combined with extractive, gallic acid<sup>2</sup>, and super-tartrate of potash, which Scheele detected in elm-bark.

*Medical properties and uses.* — This bark operates as a diuretic. It has been given with seeming benefit in herpetic eruptions; and Dr. Lettsom<sup>3</sup> attributes the cure of a severe case of lepra ichthyosis, in which other remedies failed, to the use of this bark. Other practitioners have also related cases of its efficacy; but Dr. Willan<sup>4</sup> thinks it is of little use. It is generally given in the form of decoction.

Official preparation. *Decoctum Ulmi*. L. D.

UVÆ PASSÆ. Vide *Vitis*.

UVÆ URSI FOLIA. Vide *Arbutus*.

WINTERA. *Spec. Plant. Willd.* ii. 1239.

Cl. 13. Ord. 4. Polyandria Tetragynia. Nat. Ord. Magnoliæ Juss. G. 1063. *Calyx* three-lobed. *Petals* six or twelve. *Germens* club-shaped. *Style* none. *Berries* four or eight, obovate.

*Species* 1. *W. aromatica*. Winter's Bark-tree. *Med. Bot.* 2d edit. 647. t. 226. *Phil. Trans.* xvii. 923. t. 1. f. 1, 2.

Official. WINTERÆ AROMATICÆ CORTEX. Edin. Winter's Bark.

*Syn.* Cannelles de Winter (F.) Winteraia (L.)

The tree is a native of the Straits of Magellan, growing in valleys which are exposed to the sun. It is a large ever-green tree; covered on the trunk with a grey wrinkled bark, which on the branches is green and smooth. The leaves are petiolate, elliptical, obtuse, smooth, an inch and a half in length, an inch broad in the middle, and of a light-green colour. The flowers are axillary, two, three, or more together, on short peduncles of a milk white colour, with the odour of jasmine; the petals are unequal, oval, obtuse, concave, and erect: the filaments shorter than the petals, supporting large, oval anthers, and the germens turbinated, with sessile, divided, flat stigmas. The berries are of a light-green colour spotted with black, and contain several black aromatic seeds.

This tree was discovered in 1577, by captain Winter, the crew of whose ship used the bark as spice. It is not often found in the shops; and is frequently confounded with the *canella alba*, from which it may be distinguished by being in larger pieces, and having more of a cinnamon hue.

*Qualities.*—Winter's bark has an aromatic odour; and a pungent hot spicy taste, slowly imparted but very permanent. These qualities depend on a volatile oil, which can be obtained separate, in distillation with water.

<sup>1</sup> Thomson's Chemistry, 4th ed. iv. 695.

<sup>2</sup> Very little tannin is present, as it scarcely effects a solution of gelatine.

<sup>3</sup> Medical Memoirs, 152.

<sup>4</sup> Description, &c. of Cutaneous Diseases, i. 139.