preparing it the chemist not unfrequently substitutes the berries of the *Cornus Sanguinea*, the Dogberry tree, or those of the *Rhamnus Frangula*, the Alder buckthorn, for the Rhamnus Catharticus; a circumstance which necessarily renders the efficacy of this syrup variable and uncertain; it is moreover often sophisticated with treacle and jalap. The syrup of the rose, when made with the leaves of the *Damask** rose, is gently laxative, and is well adapted for weak children; it is however not unusual, *coloris gratia*, to substitute the leaves of the *red* rose, in which case the syrup will possess astringent instead of laxative properties. In the preparation of the syrup of poppies,† the directions of the College are frequently not obeyed; it is sometimes made by dissolving the extract in syrup, formed with coarse sugar, or even with treacle; at others, by adding tincture of opium to a coarse syrup, in the proportion of ♏x to every ʒj. In the preparation of the syrups of violets, the juice of red cabbage is generally substituted; this is at least a harmless fraud. Note. The syrups which are printed in *Italics*, are very susceptible of decomposition, and should be kept in cool places.

## TABACI FOLIA. L.E.

(Nicotiana Tabacum. Folia Siccata. *Virginiana.*)

NICOTIANÆ FOLIA. D.

*Tobacco.*

QUALITIES. *Odour*, strong, narcotic, and fœtid; *Taste*, bitter and extremely acrid; *Colour*, yellowish green, (its brown appearance is artificial, being produced by the action of *sulphate of iron.*) CHEMICAL COMPOSITION. *Mucilage, albumen, gluten, extractive, a bitter principle, an essential oil, nitrate of potass, which occasions its deflagration, muriate* of potass, and a peculiar proximate principle upon which the properties of the plant are supposed to depend, and which has therefore been named *Nicotin.*‡ Vauquelin considers it as approaching the volatile oils in its properties; it is colourless, has an acrid taste, and the peculiar smell of tobacco, and occasions violent sneezing; with alcohol and water, it produces colourless solutions, from which it is thrown down by tincture of galls. SOLUBILITY. Tobacco yields its active matter both to water and spirit, but more perfectly to the latter; long coction weakens its powers. An oil of Tobacco of a most powerful nature, may be obtained by distilling the leaves and separating it from the water, on the top of which it will be found to float.§ MED. USES. Tobacco is endued with ener-

* The Damask Rose, Rosa Centifolia, of which this syrup is composed, was imported into this country by Linacre, on his return from Italy.

† MAJOR COCHRANE'S COUGH MEDICINE. White poppy heads without seeds are made into a decoction, which is strained, and boiled again with vinegar and brown sugar, until it assumes the consistence of syrup, which in then acidified by elixir of vitriol.

‡ It would appear that there are two principles of activity in Tobacco, an essential oil, and nicotin, either of which are, individually, capable of producing death, but by a very different physiological action, the former by its effects on the brain, the latter by its influence on the heart! See page 135.

§ "It seems very probable that the "juice of cursed hebenon," by which, according to Shakespeare, the king of Denmark was poisoned, was no other than the essential oil of Tobacco:—

——— "Sleeping within mine orchard,
My custom always of the afternoon,

getic poisonous properties, producing generally a universal tremor which is rarely the result of other poisons; the experiments of M. Orfila moreover demonstrate, that the action of Tobacco is much more energetic when the soluble portion is injected into the anus, than when it is applied to the cellular texture, and for a still stronger reason, than when introduced into the stomach. Mr. Brodie, from the result of a well devised experiment, has deduced the conclusion that the infusion of Tobacco acts upon the heart, occasioning syncope, through the medium of the nervous system. Uses. As a powerful sedative, it is sometimes valuable in medical practice; the leaves, when applied in the form of a cataplasm to the pit of the stomach, produce an emetic operation; (*Form.* 67.) In cases of obstinate constipation, depending upon violent spasmodic constriction, or in *ileus*, or *incarcerated hernia*; clysters of the smoke of Tobacco, or of an infusion made according to the London College, produce almost immediate relief, (*Form.* 26); the practice is not unfrequently attended with severe vomiting, extreme debility, and cold sweat, circumstances which render its administration highly dangerous in cases wherein the patient has been already exhausted by previous suffering. I remember witnessing a lamentable instance of this truth some years ago; a medical practitioner, after repeated trials to reduce a strangulated hernia, injected an infusion of Tobacco, and shortly afterwards sent the patient in a carriage to the Westminster Hospital, for the purpose of undergoing the operation; but the unfortunate man arrived only a few minutes before he expired. Clysters of Tobacco were some years ago recommended in America, for the purpose of forwarding difficult parturition, by inducing relaxation and consequent dilitation of the *os uteri*, but the alarming symptoms which followed the single case in which Tobacco was thus employed, ought, says *Dr. Merriman*, to prevent a repetition of the experiment*. It was also formerly proposed to inject infusions of Tobacco, for the purpose of recovering persons in a state of *asphyxia* from drowning; it is difficult to explain how such an idea could have entered into the mind of the rational physiologist. Smoking or chewing Tobacco has been also advised in cases of spasmodic asthma, and as a general sedative to relieve suffering; in the process of *smoking*, the oil is separated, and being rendered empyreumatic by heat, it is thus applied to the fauces in its most active state. As a diuretic

> Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
> With juice of cursed hebenon in a vial,
> And in the porches of mine ears, did pour
> The leperous distilment."

In the first place, the learned commentator, Dr. Grey, observes that the word here used (hebenon), was more probably designated by a metathesis, either of the poet or transcriber, for henebon, i. e. henbane. Now it appears from Gerarde, that "tobacco," was commonly called henbane of Peru, (hyoscyamus Peruvianus,) and when we consider how high the public prejudice ran again this herb in the reign of James, it seems very likely that Shakspeare should have selected it, as an agent of very extraordinary malignity. No preparation of the hyoscyamus, with which we are acquainted, would produce death by application to the ear, whereas the essential oil of Tobacco would, without doubt, occasion a fatal issue. The term distilment has also called forth a remark from Steevens, which is calculated to support this conjecture; surely, says he, this expression signifies that the preparation was the result of a distillation.

* See "An Essay on the means of lessening Pain, and facilitating certain Cases of difficult parturition, by W. P. Dewes, M. D. 1806, also Med. Journ. vol. xviii.

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it was successfully exhibited by Dr. Fowler, but as its operation is uncertain and violent, and appears to be very analagous to that of Digitalis, which is far more safe and manageable, it has been very judiciously discarded from practice. The external application of Tobacco in the form of cataplasm or infusion, has been applied to several species of cutaneous disease, but even in this state it is liable to exert its virulent effects. A woman applied to the heads of three children afflicted with *tinea capitis*, a liniment consisting of powdered tobacco and butter, soon after which they experienced vertigo, violent vomiting, and fainting. (*Ephemerides des Curieux de la Nature*, Dec. ii. An : i. p. 46.) A case has just occurred in this country of a child whose death was occasioned by her having swallowed a portion of half smoked tobacco, which was taken from the pipe of her father, and in which there no doubt existed a quantity of essential oil, which had been separated by the act of smoking. It is a curious fact, that the juice of the green leaves instantly cures the stinging of nettles.

Adulterations. When it exhales a fetid odour, we may infer that it has been badly prepared, and not deprived of all its mucus ; when pungent, the presence of some deleterious drug is indicated : Cascarilla is very usually added to impart a peculiar flavour ; Nitre is also employed for the sake of making it kindle more rapidly, and to impress a lively sensation on the tongue : its vapour is of course very injurious to the lungs : its presence may be detected by treating a suspected sample with hot water, and after filtering the solution through charcoal, setting it aside in order that it may yield its crystals by evaporation. Traces of *Lead*, *Copper*, or *Antimony*, may be discovered by boiling Tobacco in strong vinegar, and, after filtering it as before, by assaying it with appropiate tests. *Black Hellebore*, *Allum*, *Sugar*, and *Corrosive sublimate* are amongst the more usual sophistications. *Dried Dock* leaves are also sometimes substituted. Officinal Prep : *Infus : Tabacci*. L. *Vinum Nicotian ; Tabac :* E.

Snuff. This well known errhine is prepared from the dried leaves of Tobacco ; in its manufacture however, numerous additions are made which are kept secret. *Salt* is added for the purpose of increasing its weight ; *Urine*, Muriate of ammonia, and powdered Glass, to heighten its acrimony. The varied flavour of different *Snuffs* is owing to the leaf being in greater or less perfection ; or to its having undergone some degree of fermentation ; thus, for instance, the *Macauba Snuff* of Martinique is principally indebted for its acknowledged superiority to the fermentation which the Tobacco undergoes, from being moistened with the best cane juice ; other kinds are excited into fermentation by moistening them with molasses and water.

Snuff possesses all the powers of Tobacco ; the celebrated Santeuil experienced vomiting and horrible pains, amidst which he expired, in consequence of having drank a glass of wine, into which had been put some Spanish Snuff.*

* Cephalic Snuff. The basis of this errhine, is powdered Asarum, diluted with some vegetable powder.

## TAMARINDI PULPA. L. (Tamarindus Indica.)

Tamarindus: Fructus. D.

Fructus Conditus. E.

The Pulp or preserved Fruit of the *Tamarind.**

Qualities. *Taste*, sweetish acid; *Odour*, none. Chemical Composition. ℥j of Tamarinds is composed of Citric acid grs. 45, Malic acid grs. 2, Super-tartrate of potass grs. 15, together with sugar, gum, jelly, fecula, and woody fibre. Uses. A pleasant febrifuge may be formed by infusing Tamarinds in water or milk; they improve the taste of the more nauseous cathartic. Officinal Prep: *Confectio Cassiæ*. L.E.D. *Infus Tamarinds: cum Senna*. E.D. Caution. Copper vessels should never be employed for the preparation of any compound which contains *Tamarinds*.

## TARAXACI RADIX. L.E.

(Leontodon Taraxacum.) Dens Leonis,

*Dandelion.*

Qualities. *Odour*, none; *Taste*, bitter, and somewhat sweet and acidulous. Chemical Composition. The active principles appear to consist of extractive, gluten, a bitter principle (*not resinous*), and tartaric acid. Solubility. Water extracts its virtues much better than spirit. Incompatible Substances. *Infusion of Galls*, *Nitrate of Silver*, *Oxy-muriate of Mercury*, *Acetate of Lead*, and *Sulphate of Iron* occasion precipitates in its solutions. Med. Uses. It has long enjoyed the reputation of proving beneficial in obstructions of the liver, and in visceral diseases; Bergius extols its use in these complaints, and recommends the recent root to be boiled in whey or broth. Dr. Pemberton has more recently added his testimony to its value; he observes that he has seen great advantage result from using the extract in chronic inflammation, and incipient schirrhus of the liver, and in chronic derangement of the stomach. Forms of Exhibition. In that of extract, or in decoction made by boiling ℥j of the sliced root in oj of water down to oss, adding to the strained liquid ℥j of Cream of tartar; the recent full grown root only should be used. Dose, f℥jj, twice or thrice a day. Officinal Prep: *Extract: Taraxaci*. The roots are roasted and used at Gottingen by the poorer people for coffee, from which a decoction of them properly prepared can hardly be distinguished.† The leaves of this plant are blanched, and very commonly used on the continent as a sallad.

* Tamarind, from *Timmer* a Date, and *Hend*, India, Timmerhend i. e. Date of India.

† Various substances have been proposed at different times as substitutes for Coffee. In the "Fourth Century of Observations" in the "Miscellanea Curiosa," we find a critical dissertation on the (Cahve) Coffee of the Arabians; and on European Coffee, or such as may be prepared from grain or pulse. Dillenius gives the result of his own preparations made with Pease, Beans, and Kidney Beans, but says that that made from Rye comes the nearest to true Coffee, and was with difficulty distinguished from it. This fact is curious, in as much as a spurious Coffee has been lately vended, which is nothing more than roasted Rye. The article is well known by the name of Hunt's "Economical Breakfast Powder."

## TEREBINTHINA. L.E.D. *Turpentine.*

Most species of Pinus* may be made to yield (and many of them produce spontaneously) a remarkable resinous juice, usually called *Turpentine;* an appellation, however, which more properly belongs to the product of a different genus, called by Linnæus *Pistachia*, which contains the true *Terebinthus*† of the ancients.

Qualities. *Consistence*, semi-fluid and tenacious, but becoming more or less concrete by age; *Odour*, aromatic; *Taste*, pungent, austere, and astringent. It is inflammable. Solubility. It is entirely soluble in rectified spirit, but not at all in water; although it becomes miscible with that fluid, by the mediation of the yelk or the white of an egg, but more elegantly by that of vegetable mucilage, and forms a milky liquor. It is capable of entering into union with fixed oils. Chemical Composition. Resin, and an essential oil, the proportions of which vary according to the species of Pine from which it is obtained. They all, however, possess the same general chemical, as well as medicinal properties, viz. When internally taken, says Dr. Maton, they seem to warm the *viscera*, raise the pulse, and impart additional excitement to the whole vascular system; applied externally, they increase the tone of the part, counteract indolence of action, and deterge, as it were, ill-conditioned ulcers. *Internal* ulcerations indeed, especially of the urinary passages, as well as laxities of the seminal and uterine vessels, are supposed to be diminished by the exhibition of preparations of this nature. They certainly appear to act in a peculiar manner on the urinary organs, impregnating the water with a violet smell, and there are strong grounds for believing that its volatile element, developed by the powers of digestion, passes into the circulation, and is eliminated by the kidneys, whose secreting vessels are thus stimulated *by its contact.* (*See* page 95.) Pulmonary complaints, as obstinate coughs and asthmatic affections, have been said to give way to medicines of this class; yet, in modern practice, recourse is rarely had to them in such cases, and their exhibition is even considered hazardous. The ancients were accustomed to medicate their wines with various Terebinthinate substances, for the effect of which, see *Vinum.*

The particular preparations of Turpentine most employed in medicine, will be noticed under the different species.

1. Terebinthina Canadensis. L. (Pinus Balsamea. *Resina Liquida.*) *Canada Turpentine*, or *Canada Balsam.*‡ This is a transparent whitish juice, brought to this country from Canada, and apparently, says Dr. Maton, not very different in its qualities from the celebrated *Balm of Gilead*,§ so high in esteem among the eastern nations, and so strongly recommended in a variety of complaints. Hitherto, however, it has not been much employed in England. Its odour is agreeable, and its taste strong and pungent.

*See "Some account of the Medicinal and other Uses of various Substances prepared from Trees of the genus Pinus, by W. G. Maton, M.D. &c. being a Supplement to Mr. Lambert's splendid work on that genus.

† The Τερμινθος of Theophrastus (lib. 3. c. 3.) and Dioscorides; (lib. 1, c. 76) from which the word Terebinthus seems to have been derived.

‡ The term Balsam is very improperly applied to this substance, since it contains no Benzoic Acid.

§ The product of the Amyris Gileadensis, and probably the Balsamum Judaicum, Syriacum e Mecca, Opobalsamum, &c. of the older writers.

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2. Terebinthina Chia. L. (Pistachia Terebinthus.) *Chio*, or *Cyprus Turpentine.* The superiority of this species to all the products of the pine tribe, was well known to, and described by, most of the ancient writers on the materia medica. It is pellucid, with a blueish-green cast.

3. Terebinthina Vulgaris. L. (Pinus Sylvestris. *Scotch Fir.*) *Common Turpentine. Horse Turpentine.* This species is more coarse and dense than any other kind, and has an opaque light brown colour; its consistence may be compared to that of honey; the taste is very acrid, hot, and disagreeable, and the smell much less pleasant than either the *Venice* or the *Strasburg* turpentine. It is the kind which, as its name implies, is most commonly employed, and although inferior in quality to that of the turpentine tree, *Pistachia Terebinthus* (Chio or Cyprus), the Larch, *Pinus Larix* (Venice Turpentine), and the Silver Fir, *Pinus Picea* (Strasburgh Turpentine), especially for internal use, yet it is too often substituted for them in the shops of the druggist. The Colleges of London and Edinburgh direct the common turpentine to be used chiefly in external applications, for which it was also much employed by the ancients. Celsus mentions, "*Resina liquida pinea*," as entering into the composition of many of his "*Malagmata*," and the "*Resina liquida*," of other writers would appear to be of the same kind. The *Unguentum Elemi compositum* contains this resinous juice as a principal ingredient.

4. Terebinthina Veneta. (Pinus Larix.)* *The Larch. Venice Turpentine.* This resin is by most writers, and in the shops, esteemed the best, after that of *Pistachia Terebinthus*, of those juices commonly called *Turpentines.* It is usually thinner than any other kind, of a pale yellowish colour, and of a hot, pungent, bitterish taste; the smell is strong, and far from being agreeable. Although it bears the name of *Venice Turpentine*, very little of it is exported from the Venetian territories; but it is probable that the merchants of that country were the first who substituted it for the genuine Turpentine of Cyprus. The resinous juice of the Larch is said to remain always, or at least a very long time, in a state of liquidity; a property which is particularly adverted to by Pliny.† As a Diuretic, the *Venice* Turpentine has been generally preferred to all the other kinds; and it is said to relax the bowels more, for which reason *Riverius*‡ considers it as being safer than other irritating diuretics.

5. Terebinthina Argentoratensis. (Pinus Picea.) *Strasburg Turpentine.* This resin is generally of a middle consistence between that of the *Terebinthus* and the *Larix;* more transparent and less tenacious than either; in colour yellowish brown; in smell more agreeable than any other turpentine, except the Cyprian; in taste the bitterest, yet the least acrid.

*Form of Exhibition.* The Turpentines may be either made into Pills with powdered liquorice root, or suspended in water by the intervention of egg or mucilage; for which purpose, ℥j requires the yelk of one egg, or ʒiss of gum arabic. *Dose*, gr. x to ʒj.

* A fluid extract, prepared by decoction from the twigs of this species of Fir, is the well known Essence of Spruce, which, when fermented with molasses, forms the popular beverage, called "Spruce Beer," (Cerevisia Pini Laricis.)

True Riga Balsam, Beaumé de Carpathes, from the shoots of the Pinus Cembra, previously bruised, and macerated for a month in water.

This same fir also affords Briançon Turpentine.

Hungarian Balsam.—A spontaneous exudation from the P. Pumilio, or Mugho Pine.

† Lib. 16, c. 10. ‡ Prax. Med. Lib. 14. c. 1.

## TEREBINTHINÆ OLEUM. L.E.D.

*Oil of Turpentine.*

QUALITIES. *Form*, a limpid and colourless liquid, whose specific gravity is only ·792 ; *Odour*, strong, penetrating and peculiar ; *Taste*, hot, bitter and pungent. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION. It is an essential oil, possessing, however, peculiar habitudes with respect to alcohol, being readily dissolved by *hot* alcohol, but separating again in drops, as the spirit cools ; in the cold it is sparingly soluble in the strongest alcohol, and separates from it on standing ; but it dissolves completely in six parts of sulphuric æther. It is not acted upon by the alkalies, except by long triture, when it is converted into a species of resin.* MED. USES. It acts according to the dose, either on the *primæ viæ* producing catharsis, or on the kidneys exciting diuresis ; thus its operation offers another illustration of the views which I have so frequently urged during the progress of the present work ; it furnishes a striking example of the important influence of quantity, or *dose*, in determining the specific operation of a remedy ; thus *two fluid-drachms* of the oil may so excite the urinary organs as to produce even bloody urine, and the other ill effects described by Boerhaave and Lange ; whereas *six fluid-drachms* or a *fluid-ounce*, will stimulate the bowels, and produce scarcely any apparent effect upon the kidneys.

As a medicine acting powerfully on the first passages, its value seems only to have been lately appreciated ; in Tænia, it may be said to act almost as a specific remedy, discharging it in all cases, *dead*. In obstinate constipation, depending on affections of the brain, I have lately had several opportunities of witnessing its beneficial effects : in an unfortunate instance of *Hydrocephalus acutus in a boy of thirteen years of age*,† it brought away an accumulation of feculent matter almost incredible as to quantity, after the total failure of the strongest doses of ordinary purgatives ; and I believe, if its dose be sufficiently large, that it may generally be administered with perfect safety and confidence. Dr. Latham has long regarded it as a valuable medicine in Epilepsy, in which cases it may in the first instance prove beneficial by unloading the bowels, and subsequently in producing an affection of the head peculiar to its use ; and, which generally succeeds a large dose, it is an approach to intoxication, but is unaccompanied with that hilarity and elevation of thought that so usually follow the potation of spirituous liquors. In small doses it produces diuresis, and is used with much advantage in sciatica and lumbago.‡ Its use in diseases of the kidneys originating from ulcerations, and obstructions in those organs, has been very highly extolled. Cheyne, in his Essay on the gout, recommends it as a specific in Sciatica ; upon this subject my own experience so completely confirms the truth of Dr. Maton's observations, that I shall here insert them. "If," says he, "I may be allowed to offer the result of my own practice, its effects are in a few instances successful in the removal of that disease ; amd even those cases

* STARKEY'S SOAP. This compound is effected by a long and tedious trituration of alkali and oil of turpentine.

† This case was occasioned by a violent whirling of the body in a frolic! the circumstances attending it are so interesting that I shall take an opportunity of submitting the details to the profession. See Dr. Yeat's work on Hydrocephalus.

‡ "See "A Memoir on the employment of Terebinthinous Remedies in Disease, by James Copland, M.D." in the Medical and Physical Journal for 1821, p. 185.

which I have seen cured under its use, appeared to be rather of the symptomatic than idiophatic kind ; it is reasonable to presume that the sciatic nerve, from its origin and course, may owe some of its morbid affections to an obstructed ureter, as well as to a rheumatic diathesis." *Form* : 50. Hunter spoke of oil of turpentine as a styptic, and it has been administered in the Almond emulsion in cases of internal hemorrhage of an active nature. We should however be very careful how we make such an experiment. This oil has the effect of communicating the odour of violets to the urine of those who take it, and what is still more extraordinary, to those even who merely expose themselves for a short time to its effluvia : * a mixture of ♏x of this oil with f℥j of almond oil, introduced upon cotton into the ears, is serviceable in cases of deafness resulting from a diseased action of the ceruminiferous glands ; it is also employed as a local stimulant in a variety of cases : and in cholic, and obstinate constipation, it is sometimes exhibited in the form of an enema. In America, oil of Turpentine, in doses of a drachm every hour or two, has been successfully administered in cases of Yellow fever, when, says Dr. Chapman, it appears to be soothing in its effects, removing the sense of heat and irritation in the stomach, subduing the force of vascular action, and general excitement, and inducing at once a condition of more comfort and security. Orfila also recommends it as the best corrective of inflammation in the stomach from acrid poisons. In this country it has been very successfully employed in cases of Melæna, and in Puerperal fever. As a stimulating liniment its advantages are considerable, see *Liniment : Terebinth :* In Germany, Norway, and some parts of the Russian Empire, this essential oil is frequently used as a remedy for lesions of the tendons, and other bruises.† Dose as an anthelmintic, f℥ss—f℥ij, repeated every eight hours until the worm is ejected ; in these large quantities it is more convenient, as well as more efficacious, to administer it like castor oil, floating upon some liquid aromatic vehicle :‡ by rubbing up Oil of Turpentine with mucilage, we do but render it more pungent, and difficult to swallow. As a diuretic or stimulant it may be given in the form of an electuary, in doses of from ♏x to f℥j. It may be also employed as a very active clyster, made by carefully incorporating one or two table spoonsful of the oil with the yelk of an egg, and adding to it a pint of thin mucilage. This terebinthinate clyster is well calculated to relieve a paroxysm of flatulent cholic. Officinal Prep. *Liniment. Terebinth.* L. The Pharmacopœias direct the rectification of the oil by redistillation,§ when it is commonly called *Spirit* of turpentine, but it appears to be an unnecessary refinement. Dr. Nimmo has proposed the following process for purifying the oil intended for medicinal use, by which it is

* Kaauw de Persp. N. 430.

† The Guestonian Embrocation for Rheumatism. ℞. Ol. Terebinth : f℥ iss—Ol : Oliv : f℥iss—Acid : Sulp. dilut : f℥iij.

‡ Scouring Drops. The peculiar odour which distinguishes oil of turpentine, may be destroyed by the addition of a few drops of some fragrant volatile oil, as that of lemons : a combination of this kind is commonly sold under the name of Scouring Drops, for the purpose of removing paint, oil, or grease from cloth.

§ Dutch, or Haerlem Drops. The basis of this nostrum consists of the residue of this redistillation, which is a thick, red, resinous matter, to which the name of Balsam of Turpentine has been given ; a preparation, however, is frequently vended as "Dutch Drops," which is a mixture of oil of turpentine, tincture of guaiacum, spirit of nitric ether, with small portions of the oils of amber and cloves.

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said to have its disagreeable flavour lessened without sustaining any loss of efficacy. To eight parts of the oil, add one part of the strongest alcohol, and let them be well agitated together. In a few minutes a separation takes place ; the oil, unless very impure, falls to the bottom, and the alcohol, having discharged the impurities, floats at the top. Pour off the alcoholic portion, add a similar quantity of alcohol, and proceed as before. If this be repeated three or four times, the oil will become nearly tasteless, almost inodorous, and when evaporated will leave no residuum. But pure as the oil may be thus rendered, it speedily returns to its original condition.

## TIGLII OLEUM. L. Oil of Tiglium.

Croton Tiglium. *Oleum e Seminibus expressum.*

The *Croton Tiglium* is a native of the island of Ceylon, and is found in Malabar, China, Cocinchina, and the Molucca Islands. Every part of the plant would seem to be endowed with medicinal activity ; the *root* acts as a drastic purgative, and when pulverized, and exhibited in the dose of a few grains, is considered at Amboyna and Batavia, as a specific for dropsy ; the *wood* (*lignum Pavanæ*) produces, when administered in small doses, a diaphoretic effect, and in larger ones it proves drastic ; the *leaves* are also purgative, and when dried and powdered are supposed to afford an antidote against the bite of the *cobra del Capella*. The *seeds*, however are the parts which have been more generally employed in medicine, the effects of which appear to have been well known for nearly a thousand years.* They were early introduced into Europe, and long known under the names of *Grana Molucca—Tilii Grana,—* and *Grana Tiglia.*† It appears that they were at first very frequently administered, but their extreme acrimony and violence,‡ and probably the accidents which arose from their injudicious use, soon banished the article from medical practice ; in India, however these seeds are still employed as an effectual purgative, after first undergoing the process of roasting, or baking, for the purpose of removing the shell, rendering the nut pulverulent, and at the same time of moderating the acrimonous qualities§. The expressed oil of these seeds does not appear to have been obtained in a separate form until a later period ; Lemery speaks of it, and Geoffroy in directing its dose cautions us against giving more than ʒj !—he probably meant a drop. Its use has very lately been revived, and there can be little doubt but that under proper restrictions, it may become a valuable acquisition to the practitioner. The profession is indebted for its late introduction, or rather revival, to Mr. E. Conwell of the East India Company's Medical Service, on the Madras Establishment, who,‖ having for

* Serapion, the younger, one of the earlier Arabian writers on the Materia Medica, describes them as bearing some analogy to "Pine nuts."

† The reader will find an account of the Botanical Literature of this plant, by J. Frost, Director of the Medico-Botanical Society, in the 17th volume of the Medical Repository, p. 461.

‡ Rumphius, (Herb : Amboinense) in speaking of the Grana Molucca, observes that women who are desirous of getting rid of their husbands, give them four grains at one dose.

§ See Ainslie's Materia Medica of Hindostan.

‖ I state this fact on the authority of a communication made by order of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, to the College of Physicians, enclosing the extract of a letter from Mr. Conwell.

many years prescribed it with advantage introduced a quantity of it for trial in London, through the medium of his friend, Mr. Short, of Ratcliff Highway.

Qualities. This expressed oil has a yellow colour, a faint odour, and an acrid taste; these qualities however will be found to vary in different samples; but the fact as Dr. Nimmo * has justly observed, may be fairly explained, without suspecting the existence of any fraud, by supposing that the seeds have undergone a different degree of torrefaction, in order to separate the oil from the farinaceous part. Chemical Composition. The recent experiments of Dr. Nimmo have very satisfactorily shewn that this oil consists of 45 parts of an *Acrid purgative principle*, and 55 of a fixed oil resembling that of olives, and not possessed of any cathartic property. The acrid principle appears to reside in a resinous matter soluble in alcohol and sulphuric æther, and in volatile and fixed oils. I have lately repeated some of Dr. Nimmo's experiments on a recently imported sample of oil, and with similar results. The acrid principle appears to bear a strong analogy to that which I separated from elaterium, and as I gave to this latter principle the term *Elatin*, it seems to me that we might with much propriety, apply the name *Tiglin* to the former, especially as it does not appear to possess any of the characters and habitudes of a salifiable basis; at all events the adoption of such a term will obviate the necessity of circumlocution in our descriptions. Solubility. By alcohol the oil undergoes a ready decomposition; the *Tiglin* is dissolved together with a very minute quantity of the oily part. Ether and oil of turpentine dissolve the whole; a fact which enables us, by digesting the seeds in these menstrua, to obtain the article in as genuine and certainly in a much more uniform, condition, than by the processes of torrefaction and expression, as practised in India; for this fact we are also indebted to Dr. Nimmo. Med. Uses. As far as I have been able to ascertain the fact, this oil does not appear to produce any effects which cannot be commanded by other drastic purgatives; its value depends upon the facility with which it may be administered; in some cases it is amply sufficient to touch the tongue, in others, a drop or two will be required. In maniacs, and in cases where the administration of bulky medicines is extremely difficult, it would seem to offer a decided advantage.† Forms of Exhibition. It has been usually given in this country in the proportion of from one to two drops, in the form of pills. Dr. Nimmo's discovery with respect to the chemical composition of the oil, very naturally suggested to him the mode of administering it in the form of an alcoholic tincture (*Tinctura Tiglii*,) and he has found by experience that such a preparation furnishes the means of readily apportioning the dose to the various circumstances of the case; thus he found that in administering a tincture‡ in doses equivalent to the number of drops decomposed, the same effects were produced as have been attributed to the entire oil. Adulterations.

* Journal of Science and the Arts. No. xxvi.

† I understand that to the Veterinary Surgeon this oil has proved an article of great utility, as it uniformly purges the horse, and may be employed, for that purpose, in those cases in which Aloes would be inadmissible.

‡ In making such a tincture we should employ a fluid-drachm of Rectified Spirit, to two drops of the oil. They should be digested for some time and then filtered. With all the care that can be used, a certain portion of the spirit will be evaporated, and half a fluid-drachm of the tincture may be thus considered as nearly equivalent to a drop and a half of the oil.

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Much has been said upon the fraudulent admixture of this comparatively expensive article with the cheaper fixed oils; and we believe with much truth; a circumstance which will of necessity prevent the general use of the article; and occasion very different reports with respect to its value and activity. Dr. Nimmo however proposes a method of detecting such adulteration, by a process suggested by the results of his experiments upon its composition, and whose rationalé will be easily understood after the chemical history that has been just presented.

"Let a very light phial be counterpoised in an accurate balance; pour into it 50 grains of the suspected oil, add alcohol (which has been previously digested* upon olive oil,) agitate them well, pour off the solution and add more alcohol as before, until the dissolved portion is diffused in such a proportion of alcohol that each half drachm measure shall contain equal to one dose of the oil of *Tiglium* for an adult. By afterwards placing the phial near a fire to evaporate what remains of the alcohol in the bottle, *if the residuum be to that which has been abstracted by the alcohol as* 55 to 45, *the oil is genuine.* If olive, or any other oil little soluble in alcohol, has been employed as the adulterating agent, it is evident that the residuum will be in a larger proportion: but should *Castor Oil* have been employed for that purpose, the proportion of the residuum will be smaller even than in the genuine medicine."

## TINCTURÆ. L.E.D. *Tinctures.*

These consist of alcohol, proof spirit, or spirit of greater or less density, holding in solution one or more of those proximate principles of vegetable or animal matter which are soluble in that menstruum, viz. *Sugar*, *resin*, *extractive*, *tannin*, *cinchonia*, *camphor*, *volatile oils*, *morphia*, *emetin*, *conein*, *elatin*, *tiglin*, and *several acids*. The proper solvent of those bodies, termed *gum-resins*, appears to be proof spirit. The compilers of the *Codex Medicamentarius* of Paris, have defined the different degrees of spirituous strength requisite for the full and perfect extraction of the active elements of different bodies with great truth and nicety; thus they direct for these purposes a spirit of three different standards, viz. 36 (*Sp. gr.* ·837,) 32 (·856) 22, (·915) of Beaumé's hydrometer; with the first are prepared the *resinous* tinctures; with the second those wherein the *resinous*, *extractive*, or *gummy* elements, hold nearly an equal place; and with the third those in which the latter predominate. We are moreover indebted to this committee for having set at rest a question which has been long doubtful, whether the addition of alkaline agents increases the extractive powers of the spirit? They have indeed ascertained by experiment, that the reverse not frequently obtains; for instance, they found that a smaller proportion of *guaiacum* was dissolved by the spirit of ammonia, than by alcohol of the same strength, and that the quantity of matter dissolved from the *root of Valerian* was the same in both cases. Very active substances, soluble in alcohol, are those which are particularly adapted for tinctures, since they furnish preparations

* The object of this preliminary step is to saturate the alcohol with a fixed oil, that it may not dissolve any portion of that in the Tiglium, and thus confuse the results. The quantity of fixed oil which alcohol is capable of dissolving is extremely small, and will not in the least degree injure the alcoholic solution for subsequent medicinal use.

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which are efficient in small doses, and very manageable in extemporaneous prescription, such are the tinctures of *Opium*, *Digitalis*, *Hyoscyamus Scilla*, &c. and from the chemical analysis of *Elaterium*, there can be no doubt but that a very active and useful tincture of that substance might be introduced into practice: while Dr. Nimmo has very clearly proved that the active matter of the *Croton Tiglium* may be thus concentrated, see *Tiglii Oleum*. On the contrary, substances of little activity, except in large doses, are the least adapted for this form of exhibition, as in such cases the solvent will act more powerfully on the living system, than the principles which it may hold in solution, and when continued for any length of time, will lay the foundation of the pernicious custom of dram-drinking; such tinctures, however, are not without their value in combination; they sometimes increase the efficacy, and often correct the operation or disguise the flavour, of the medicines with which they may be united; for example, the cathartic tinctures in *Formula* 70, augment the purgative powers of the combination, at the same time that they correct its unpleasant operation; many other illustrations are presented in the different formulæ, for the explanation of which I must refer the student to the *Key Letters*. The addition of a tincture has likewise the effect of preserving decoctions and infusions from spontaneous decomposition, the *compound tincture of Cardamoms* answers such an object in the *compound decoction of Aloes*. Tinctures are sometimes made with æther, but they are generally more strongly characterised by the nature of the menstruum than by that of the substance dissolved in it; indeed, æther is used in these cases, not to dissolve substances which would resist the action of alcohol and water, but for the sake of its own direct action on the body; thus the Edinburgh pharmacopœia directs an *Æthereal Tincture of Aloes*, which is more penetrating and stimulant than the alcoholic tinctures; the London College, with the exception of the *Aromatic Spirit of Æther*, does not recognise any preparation of this nature: I have already alluded to the *Æthereal Tincture of Digitalis* of the French Codex, than which nothing can be more injudicious, for the digitalis does not amount to more than 1-70th part of the tincture, and must therefore be entirely counteracted by the stimulant effects of the menstruum. The same objection cannot be urged against the æthereal tinctures of *Castor*, *Musk*, and *Amber*, since in these cases, the subject and the menstruum concur in their mode of operation.

Tinctures derive their names from the substances which impart activity to them, and as the medicinal history of each substance is detailed under its proper head, it will be unnecessary to dwell at any length upon the individual virtues of these tinctures.

### 1. *Prepared with Rectified Spirit.*

Tinctura Assafœtidæ. L.D. *Dose*, f℥ss to f℥j.

——— Benzoes Comp. L.E.D. *Balsamum Traumaticum*, P.L. 1745. This is a combination of Benzoin, Storax, and Tolu, with aloes; it is regarded as a stimulating expectorant, and has been used in chronic catarrh and confirmed asthma, but it is now very rarely employed, except as an application to wounds and languid ulcers. It is sold under the name of *Friar's Balsam*; and with respect to the use of this preparation as a *Styptic*, the public have fallen into a serious error; fresh wounds it must necessarily injure, not only by its stimulating qualities, but by the sepa-

ration of the resins which take place on its intermixture with the blood; these form a substance, which absolutely prevents what is most desirable in such case,—the sides of the wound coming in contact and uniting by the first intention. Dose. As an internal remedy from ʒss to ʒij, triturated with yelk of egg, or mucilage, to suspend it in water.

Tinctura Castorei. L.E. *Dose*, ℿxx to ʒij. See Form 20, 23, 25, 76, 97, 136.

Tinctura Castorei Composita. E. This is much more active than the preceding tincture, as it contains assafœtida, and its menstruum is ammoniated alcohol. Dose ℿxv to ʒj.

Tinctura Cinchonæ Ammoniata. L. In this preparation we have the tonic powers of the bark combined with the stimulus of the Ammonia. *Dose* ʒss to ʒij. Acids and Acidulous Salts are of course incompatible with it.

Tinctura Guaiaci. L.E.D. A simple solution of guaiac. *Dose*, ʒi—ʒ iij.

Tinctura Guaiaci Ammoniata. This is a solution of the guaiac in the aromatic spirit of ammonia, and is consequently more stimulating than the preceding one, and more efficacious as a sudorific: after arterial action is properly reduced, it is certainly one of our best remedies in rheumatism. *Dose*, ʒj to ʒij, at bed time, and its effects should be promoted by some warm beverage. It is worthy of remark, that nitrous acid and the spirit of nitric æther occasion an extraordinary decomposition of these tinctures, separating the guaiacum into coagulated masses, and imparting to the whole an intense bluish green colour. I find that *chlorine* has the same effect;* but the sulphuric and muriatic acids *produce no disturbance, although all acids and acidulous salts must be* considered as *incompatible with it. If equal parts of quick-lime and* powdered guaiacum be rubbed together, and a quantity of water be poured over them, and the mixture be allowed to stand until it becomes fine, we shall obtain a solution of this substance, which will mix in any proportion with aqueous vehicles without decomposition, and to which the aromatic spirit of ammonia may be subsequently added with effect.

Tinctura Toluiferæ Balsami. E.D. This is only useful as an adjunct, to impart agreeable flavour and fragrance to other remedies.

The above tinctures, when added to water, are instantly decomposed, the practitioner must therefore remember that when he prescribes them in aqueous vehicles, it will be necessary to direct them to be triturated

* The change of colour which Guaiacum undergoes by admixture with other bodies, not only affords a test by which we may appreciate its purity, but at the same time it becomes a reagent by which we may assay the virtues of other vegetable substances. According to the experiments of M. Taddy and Rudolphi, it appears that Guaiacum in powder, is an excellent test for vegetable gluten, forming with it a fine blue colour, whence it affords the means of determining the quality of wheat flour. From the experiments of M. Planche, it moreover appears that there is a series of vegetable roots which, when fresh, are capable of producing a blue colour, if introduced into an alcoholic solution of Guaiacum: so that we may hereafter be furnished with a chemical test that will at once appreciate their freshness, which is undoubtedly one of the greatest desiderata of pharmaceutical science.

A communication has appeared from Mr. A. T. Thomson, in which he proposes Guaiacum as a test for the freshness of Colchicum. I have, however, never been able to succeed with it, to my satisfaction.

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with some viscid liquor, as mucilage, previous to the addition of the water, in order to suspend the resinous precipitate.

### 2. *Tinctures prepared with Spirit above Proof.*

Tinctura Aloes Composita. L.D. *Elixir Proprietatis.* P.L. 1720. Tincture of Myrrh is the menstruum of the Aloes in this preparation, to which Saffron is added. *Dose*, ʒj to ʒij. *Form.* 16, 97.

Tinctura Myrrhæ. L. The strength of the spirituous solvent has been very judiciously increased in the *Editio Altera* of the London Pharmacopœia, by which means a brighter tincture is obtained. It is rarely used except in astringent and detergent gargles, or as an external application to foul ulcers; diluted with water it presents us with an excellent lotion for spongy gums.*

### 3. *Tinctures prepared with Proof Spirit.*

Tinctura Angusturæ. D. See *Cusparia Cortex.*

Tinctura Aurantii. L.D. An agreeable adjunct to bitter infusions. *Dose*, ʒij to ʒiij.

Tinctura Calumbæ. L.D. A valuable stomachic. *Form*, 32, 35, 154, 155, 159. *Dose*, ʒi—ʒiij.

Tinctura Camphoræ Composita. *Tinctura Opii Camphorata.* P.L. 1787. *Elixir Paregoricum.*† P.L. 1745. This preparation had undergone both change of name and composition in the last Pharmacopœia; its old name was thought improper from its similarity to that of *tincture of opium*, and the *oil of aniseed* has been omitted on account of its disagreeable flavour; still, however, these perpetual changes are most distressing; the tincture, as it is now prepared, is very different from that which has been so long and so generally sold under the name of *Paregoric Elixir*, and the chemist is therefore obliged to keep both the preparations, and to send the one or the other, according as it may be required by the old or new name. One fluid-ounce contains nearly two grains of Opium and of benzonic acid, and about one grain and a quarter of camphor. In *doses* of ʒj to ʒiij, it is anodyne.

Tinctura Cantharides. D. This tincture is highly stimulating, acting with great energy upon the urinary organs; it therefore offers a resource in gleets, fluor albus, incontinence of urine, &c. it has also proved serviceable as a highly stimulating diuretic, in cases of *Hydrops Ovarii.* See *Form.* 116. *Dose*, ♏x to ʒj, given in some demulcent infusion; it is likewise employed with advantage as a stimulating embrocation and rubefacient, in conjunction with *soap* or camphor *liniment.* Externally it has

* Hudson's Preservative for the Teeth and Gums. Equal parts of Tincture of Myrrh, Tincture of Bark, and Cinnamon water, to which are added Arquebusade and Gum Arabic.

Greenough's Tincture for the Teeh. The following receipt is given on the authority of Mr. Grey. Of Bitter Almonds, 2 oz. Brazil Wood and Cassia Buds, equal parts, half an ounce; root of the Florentine Iris, 2 dr.: of Cochineal, Salt of Sorrel, and Alum, equal parts, one drachm; Rectified Spirit, 2 pints; Spirit of Horse Radish, half an ounce.

Ruspini's Tincture for the Teeth. This consists of the root of the Florentine Iris, eight ounces: Cloves, one ounce; Rectified Spirit, two pints; Ambergris, one scruple.

† From παρηγορέω, *lenio*, to assuage pain.

been used in the cure of Sinuses, and fistulous openings, in the proportion of three fluid-drachms to a pint of water.*

Tinctura Capsici. L. It is an excellent stimulant. See *Capsici Bacæ*. *Dose*, ℥x to ʒi.

Tinctura Cardamomi Composita. L. An agreeable cordial, and adjunct to bitter infusions. See *Form*. 47.51.† *Dose*, ʒi to ʒij.

Tinctura Cascarillæ. L.D. It is added with much effect to different stomachic infusions. See *Form*. 33, 39, 41. *Dose*, ʒi to ʒiij.

Tinctura Catechu. L.E.D. A warm and grateful astringent; very useful as an adjunct to cretaceous mixtures in diarrhœa, &c. See *Form*. 51, 52, 58. *Dose*, ʒi to ʒiij.

Tinctura Cinchonæ. L.E.D. Used as an adjunct to the decoction or infusion of the bark. See *Form*. 126, 127. *Dose*, ʒj to ʒss. It should be preserved in a place which is not very cold; for a low temperature precipitates the Morphia; this inconvenience, however, is obviated by the addition of a little acetic acid, without diminishing the efficacy of the tincture.

Tinctura Cinchonæ Composita. This resembles the celebrated tincture of Huxham, and although it contains less cinchona than the simple tincture, yet from the addition of aromatics it is more grateful and stomachic. *Dose*, ʒj to ʒss.

Tinctura Cinnamomi. L.D. See *Form*. 101.

Tinctura Cinnamomi Composita. L.E.D. As this is a combination of aromatics with cinnamon, it is more grateful and stomachic than the simple tincture. *Dose*, ʒ to ʒj.

Tinctura Conii Maculati. E. As *Conein* is perfectly soluble in spirit, this tincture constitutes a very elegant and efficient form for the exhibition of *Hemlock; I have frequently experienced its effects*, when added to febrifuge mixtures, with satisfaction. The London college has not hitherto admitted it into the list of tinctures, which is to be regretted.

Tinctura Croci. E.D. It has no medicinal use, independent of its colour.

Tinctura Digitalis. L.E.D. It is a very useful form for the exhibition of this valuable plant. *Dose*, ℥x, cautiously increased. See *Digitalis Folia*, and *Form*. 32.

Tinctura Gentianæ Composita. L.E. An elegant stomachic bitter, but less eligible as a remedy than the infusion. *Dose*, ʒi—ʒij.

Tinctura Hellebori Nigri. This preparation was strongly advised by Dr. Mead, in uterine obstructions. *Dose*, ℥xxx to ʒj. See *Hellebori Radix*.

Tinctura Humuli. L.E. It is supposed to possess the tonic and narcotic properties of the hop. *Dose*, ʒss to ʒiij.

Tinctura Hyoscyami. L. This is a much more powerful narcotic than the preceding tincture; and it is not liable to affect the head, nor to produce that disturbance in the biliary secretions which so inevitably follows the use of opium. *Dose*, ʒss to ʒij.

* Matthew's Injection. This once celebrated remedy for Fistula in Ano, was nothing more than a diluted Tincture of Cantharides.

† Solomon's Balm of Gilead An aromatic tincture, of which Cardamoms form a leading ingredient, made with brandy. Some practitioners have asserted that Cantharides enter its composition.

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Tinctura Jalapæ. L.E. As the activity of Jalap does not reside in any one principle, but depends upon the combination of its gum, extractive, and resin, *proof* spirit is of course its appropriate solvent; and the resulting tincture is therefore an active purgative, but it is rarely administered except as an *adjuvant* to cathartic combinations. *Dose*, f℥j to f℥ss. See *Form.* 70, 76.

Tinctura Kino. L.E.D. This is little less than a solution of *Tannin*; it is however less astringent than the tincture of Catechu. *Dose*, f℥i to f℥ij.

Tinctura Opii. L.E.D. This is at once a most convenient and elegant form for the exhibition of opium; ♏xix contain one grain of opium. See *Opium*, and *Form.* 5, 7, 8, 20, 28, 52, 75, 76, 107, 110, 117, 127, 136, 156, 172. As an external application, when rubbed upon the skin it produces anodyne effects, and it is said that these effects are very much increased by combining it with acetic acid; an *acetate of morphia* is probably thus produced.

Tinctura Quassiæ Excelsæ. E.D. The bitter principle of this root, *Quassin*, is completely extracted by proof spirit. *Dose*, f℥j.

Tinctura Rhei. L.E.D. Less purgative, but more astringent and aromatic than the infusion. That made with the *East Indian* variety, is of a deeper colour, with a tinge of brown. *Dose*, f℥ss to f℥j.

Tinctura Rhei Composita. L. A cordial, used principally as an adjunct to saline purgatives. *Dose*, f℥vj to f℥j, to produce purgative effects; from f℥j to f℥ij, to act as a stomachic.

The Edinburgh Pharmacopœia directs two compound tinctures of Rhubarb for similar purposes, viz. *Tinct. Rhei et Aloes*; and *Tinct. Rhei et Gentianæ.*

Tinctura Scillæ. L.E.D. *Dose*, ♏x to xxx. See *Form.* 65, 109, 139.

Tinctura Sennæ. L.E. *Dose*, f℥ij to ℥j. See *Form.* 70. *Dose*, f℥ij to f℥j.

Tinctura Sennæ Composita. E. In this tincture, the Senna is quickened by Jalap. *Dose*, f℥ij to f℥j.*

Tinctura Serpentariæ L.E.D. *Dose*, f℥ij to f℥iij. It is principally employed as a stimulating adjunct to the infusion or decoction of Cinchona, in typhoid fevers. Officinal Prep. *Tinct. Cincon. comp. L. Dose*, f℥i to f℥iij.

Tinctura Valerianæ. L.D. It is only used as an adjunct to the infusion of Valerian.

Tinctura Valerianæ Ammoniata. L.D. This tincture is not more highly charged with the principles of the Valerian than the foregoing one, but as the ammonia corresponds with it in virtue, it is probably more powerful. *Dose*, f℥i to f℥ij. See *Form.* 23, 25.

Tinctura Zingiberis. L.D. A highly stimulating preparation. See *Form.* 33. *Dose*, f℥ss to f℥ij.

## TINCTURA FERRI AMMONIATI. L.

As this is merely a spirituous solution of the *Ferrum Ammoniatum*, the

* Daffy's Elixir. This is the Tinctura Sennæ Composita, with the substitution of treacle for sugar candy, and the addition of aniseeds and elecampane root. Different kinds of this nostrum are sold under the names of Dicey's Daffy, and Swinton's Daffy; but they differ merely in some subordinate minutiæ, or unimportant additions.

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title of tincture is improperly applied to it; it seems moreover to be a very superfluous preparation.

## TINCTURA FERRI MURIATIS. L.E.D.

Qualities. *Colour*, brownish yellow; *Taste*, styptic; *Odour*, very peculiar. Chemical Composition. It is an alcoholic solution of muriate of iron; the iron being in the state of *per-oxide*. Incompatible Substances. *Alkalies* and their *carbonates*; *the infusions of astringent vegetables*; *mucilage of gum arabic*: by this latter substance it is precipitated in gelatinous flakes. Med. Uses. It is one of the most active preparations of iron which we possess, and it moreover appears to exert a specific influence upon the urinary organs.* Mr. Cline informs us that ♏x, given every ten minutes, until some sensible effect is produced, afford in dysuria speedy relief; in hemorrhage from the bladder, kidneys, or uterus, it acts as a powerful styptic. See *Form.* 35, 60, 97, 114. Externally, it is very efficacious in destroying venereal warts, either used alone, or diluted with a small portion of water. *Dose*, ♏x to f℥ss, or f℥j.†

## TORMENTILLÆ RADIX. L.E.D.

Tormentilla Officinalis.

*Tormentil Root.*

Qualities. This root is knotty, externally blackish, internally reddish; *Odour*, slightly aromatic; *Taste*, austere and styptic. Chemical Composition. Its active matter is chiefly *Tannin*, and except galls and catechu, it appears to contain a larger proportion than any other vegetable astringent.‡ Solubility. Boiling water extracts all its virtues, as also does spirit. Incompatible Substances. *Solutions of Isinglass, the Salts of Iron; Alkalies* and *Alkaline Earths.* Med. Uses. It has been chiefly used in diarrhœa, and it is very efficacious in that which is so frequently attendant on Phthisis. Dr. Fordyce recommends its union with Ipecacuan, by which combination, he observes, we shall astringe the vessels of the intestines, and at the same time relax those of the skin. Forms of Exhibition. In substance, or in decoction made by boiling ℥j of the root in oiss of water until reduced to oj. Dose, of the substance in powder, ℥ss to ℥j; of the above decoction f℥j thrice a day. Officinal Prep. *Pulv. Cret. Comp.* L.

## TOXICODENDRI FOLIA. L.E.

(Rhus Toxicodendron.)

*Sumach Leaves*, or *Poison Oak.*

Qualities. Its leaves are inodorous, but have a sub-acrid taste. Chemical Composition. Gallic acid, tannin, and a certain acrimonious mat-

* The following remarks, with which I have lately been favoured by Dr. Davy, appear interesting. "In the few cases which I have tried this remedy for the retention of urine, I have seen no good effects produced, until it excited nausea. For this purpose I have found it advantageous to give it in a little tepid water; upon chemical examination I could not discover that it ever passed off by the urine; the fæces, however are uniformly coloured black by it, whence I conclude it must be evacuated through the bowels. In order to prevent its tendency to constipate the bowels, I have found it necessary to give some aperient, as castor oil, speedily after its exhibition." May not this latter circumstance explain the reason of his not having detected it in the urine? (See page 97.)

† De La Motte's Golden Drops. An Æthereal solution of Iron.

‡ It has, for this reason, been substituted for oak bark in the tanning of leather.

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ter, upon which the virtues of the plant depend, and which, according to Van Mons, is disengaged from the leaves in the state of gas during the night, or while they do not receive the direct rays of the sun. MED. USES. Dr. Alderson of Hull introduced the leaves of this plant to notice, in whose hands they proved successful in several cases of Paralysis; the same results however have not been obtained by other physicians; the plant has therefore fallen into disuse, and might, in deference to public opinion, be removed from the materia medica. When applied externally it has been known to produce an erysipelatous affection of the skin; a remarkable instance of which lately occurred at the Botanic garden at Chelsea, where a person merely rubbed his eye after having casually touched the plant in question.

TUSSILAGO. (Tussilago Farfara.—*Folia, Flores.*) *Coltsfoot.**

This plant has been regarded as a powerful expectorant from the earliest ages; it is at present only valued for the mucilage which it affords; a handful of the leaves boiled in oij of water, until reduced to oj, will furnish, by the addition of a little sugar candy, a very grateful demulcent.

## VALERIANÆ RADIX. L.E.D.

(Valeriana Officinalis. *Sylvestris.*)

*Valerian Root.*

QUALITIES. *Odour*, strong, peculiar and unpleasant; *Taste*, warm, bitter, and sub-acrid. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION. Extractive, gum, resin, fecula, tannin, and a peculiar essential oil which seems to contain camphor, and on which its virtues probably depend. SOLUBILITY. Its active matter is extracted by boiling water, alcohol, and the solutions of the pure alkalies. INCOMPATIBLE SUBSTANCES. *The salts of iron.* MED. USES. It is antispasmodic, tonic, and emmenagogue; and it is highly beneficial in those diseases which appear to be connected with a morbid susceptibility of the nervous system, as in hysteria, hemicrania, and in some species of epilepsy; and it would appear that its virtues in such complaints may be frequently increased by combining it with cinchona. FORMS OF EXHIBITION. The form of powder is the most effectual, and next to this a strong tincture made with proof spirit; by decoction its powers are considerably impaired, and consequently the extract is an inefficient preparation. DOSE of the powder ℈j to ʒj; when the flavour disgusts, the addition of a small portion of *mace* or *cinnamon*, will be found to disguise it. See *Form.* 25, 31, 38. OFFICINAL PREPARATION. *Infus. Valerian.* D. *Tinct. Valerian.* L.D. *Tinct. Valerian. ammoniat.* L.D. ADULTERATIONS. The roots of a species of *crowfoot* are sometimes mixed with those of valerian; they may be distinguished by a caustic taste on chewing them; the roots have also often a disagreeable smell from the urine of cats, who are allured and delighted by their odour; and they are sometimes inert, from not having been taken up at a proper season, or from not having been carefully preserved.

* BRITISH HERB TOBACCO. The basis of which is Coltsfoot; this appears to have had a very ancient origin, for the same plant was smoaked through a reed in the days of Dioscorides, for the purpose of promoting expectoration, and was called by him βηχιον, from βηξ, tussis, whence Tussilago.

ESSENCE OF COLTSFOOT. For an account of this nostrum, see page 317.

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