*half an ounce;* simple syrup, *eight ounces;* extract of liquorice, softened by hot water, gum-arabic in powder, of each, *five ounces.* First rub the opium well with the tincture; then add gradually the syrup and the extract; afterwards sprinkle in the powdered gum-arabic; lastly, dry the mass, and form it into troches, each weighing ten grains."

These troches are used for the same purposes as the former; and from the opium they contain are more efficacious in allaying tickling cough. Six troches contain one grain of opium; and from six to ten may be taken in twenty-four hours.

TROCHISCI GUMMOSI, Edin. *Gum Troches.*

"Tak of gum-arabic, *four parts;* starch, *one part;* refined sugar, *twelve parts.* Rub the whole to powder, and form it into a mass with rose-water fit for forming troches."

These troches are simple demulcents, and answer sufficiently well for allaying the tickling irritation of the fauces which excites coughing.

TROCHISCI NITRATIS POTASSÆ, Edin. *Troches of Nitrate of Potassa.*

"Take of nitrate of potassa, *one part;* refined sugar, *three parts.* Beat them to powder, and form them into a mass fit for forming troches by means of mucilage of tragacanth."

These troches afford an agreeable form of taking nitre in the dry state; and are useful for cooling the mouth in salivations, and in stopping the progress of inflammatory sore throat, when taken at its commencement. They may also be used as a general refrigerant in fevers, diluting largely during their use. The dose is one or two taken every second or third hour.

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## *PRÆPARATA EX ANIMALIBUS.*

### PREPARATIONS FROM ANIMALS.

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

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

"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.*

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[1] Adeps suillæ preparata, P. L. 1787.

"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[1], Lond. *Prepared Suet.*

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

ADEPS OVILLUS PRÆPARATUS. Dub. *Prepared Suet.*

"To be prepared in the same manner as lard."

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[2], Lond. *Burnt Hartshorn.*

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

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 hartshorn, which is intended to be designated: but the properties of hartshorn 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 hartshorn 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 hartshorn consists, after the burning, of 57·5 of phosphate of lime, one of carbonate of lime, and a minute portion of phosphate of magnesia.

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[1] Sevum ovillum preparatum, P. L. 1787.
[2] Cornu cervi ustum, P. L. 1787.

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*Medical properties and uses.* — Phosphate of lime is perfectly inert when taken into the stomach; and the analysis of burnt hartshorn 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 hartshorn 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, scrofulous affections, and herpetic eruptions; and I have witnessed its efficacy in scirrhous 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 ʒ j. to ʒ iij. 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."

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## *EMPLASTRA.*

### PLASTERS.

THESE are solid, tenacious 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

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