agreeable ſmell, and a bitteriſh ſomewhat pungent taſte: in chewing it ſticks to the teeth, becomes white, and renders the ſaliva milky. Laid on a red-hot iron, it readily catches flame, and burns with a ſtrong diffuſive and not unpleaſant ſmell. On trituration with water, the greateſt part of it diſſolves into a milky liquor, which on ſtanding depoſits a portion of reſinous matter."[a] The gummy and reſinous parts are nearly in equal proportions; and though rectified ſpirit diſſolves leſs of the Olibanum than water, it extracts nearly all its active matter. It is brought from Turkey, and from the Eaſt Indies; but that which comes from India is leſs eſteemed.

In ancient times Olibanum ſeems to have been in great repute,[b] and was chiefly uſed in affections of the head and breaſt, coughs, hæmoptyſis, and in various fluxes both uterine and inteſtinal: it was alſo much employed externally. Riverius found it of great efficacy in pleuriſies, which were ſaid to be epidemic; and Geoffroy[c] likewiſe experienced its ſucceſs in theſe diſeaſes, eſpecially after veneſection; at preſent, however, recourſe is ſeldom had to this medicine, which is now ſuperſeded by myrrh, and other articles of the reſinous kind.

[a] *Lewis, M. M. p.* 460.

[b] It is the λιβανος of Theophraſtus & Dioſcorides, λιβανωτος of Hippocrates.

[c] *Mat. Med. Traité. T.* 4. *p.* 71.

PINUS SYLVESTRIS. SCOTCH FIR.

Pix liquida. *Pharm. Lond. & Edinb.*

SYNONYMA. Pinus ſylveſtris. *Bauh. Pin. p.* 491. *Gerard. Emac. p.* 1356. *Raii Hiſt. p.* 1399. Pinus rubra foliis geminis brevioribus glaucis, conis parvis mucronatis. *Mill. Dict.* Pinus ſylveſtris foliis brevibus glaucis, conis parvis albicantibus. *Du Hamel. Arb.* 2. *p.* 125. *t.* 30. *Raii Synop. p.* 442. *Hudſon. Flor. Ang. ed.* 1. 361. *Lightfoot, Flor. Scot. p.* 587. *Withering. Bot. Arr. p.* 1092. *Ic. Miller Illuſt. The Scotch Fir Tree. Hunter's Evel.*

Claſs

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Pinus sylvestris

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Classis Monoecia. *Ord.* Monadelphia. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 1077.

Ess. Gen. Ch. *Masc.* *Cal.* 4-phyllus. *Cor.* o. *Stam.* plurima. *Antheræ* nudæ.

Fem. *Cal.* strobili: squama 2-flora. *Cor.* o. *Pist.* 1. *Nux* ala membranacea excepta.

Sp. Ch. P. foliis geminis rigidis, conis ovato-conicis longitudine foliorum subgeminis basi rotundatis. *Hort. Kew.*

THIS tree grows usually straight, tapering, and to a great height, so as to be made into good masts for ships: the branches are numerous, divaricating, and like the stem covered with rough bark of a reddish brown colour: the leaves stand in pairs, and are united at the base with the sheath; they are two or three inches long, convex on one side, concave on the other, very narrow, linear, striated, somewhat pointed, of a deep green glaucous colour, and surround the ends of the smaller branches: the flowers are male and female upon the same tree; the former stand in bunches without any calyx, unless the loose scales be considered as such: there is no corolla: the filaments are numerous, united at the bottom, forming an upright pillar, and furnished with erect antheræ: the latter consists of a calyx, or common cone, which is small, composed of scales, with two flowers in each; the cones are oblong, imbricated, permanent, inflexible: there is no corolla: the germen is very small, producing a tapering style, terminated by a simple stigma: there is no capsule, but the scales of the cone, which before stood open close upon the seed or nut, which is supplied with a membranaceous wing.

It is a native of Scotland, especially among the highland mountains, and hence named Scotch Fir. It flourishes best in a poor sandy soil. In black, boggy or chalky ground, or near stagnant waters, it does not thrive. The wood is used for various purposes, and the inner bark is, by the inhabitants of the north of Europe, made into a kind of bread.

Though most species of Fir possess in common the same medicinal properties, and all agree in affording the different products of the

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turpentine kind, yet as it has been found that ſome ſpecies produce theſe different articles of the Materia Medica in greater purity, or in more abundance than others: we have accordingly aſſigned to each, the reſpective article which it beſt ſupplies. This tree not only furniſhes moſt abundantly the Pix liquida, or Tar, but alſo from it may be obtained the common turpentine, and the white and yellow reſins.

The manner in which the Tar is procured is by cutting the tree into pieces, which are incloſed in a large oven conſtructed for the purpoſe, with a channel at the bottom. A ſufficient degree of heat is then applied, by which the tar is forced out of the wood, and runs off by the opening at the bottom: a proceſs termed diſtillatio per deſcenſum.

Tar, which is well known from its œconomical uſes, is properly an empyreumatic oil of turpentine, and has been much uſed as a medicine both internally and externally. Tar water, * or water impregnated with the more ſolubile parts of tar, was ſometime ago a very popular remedy in various obſtinate diſorders, both acute and chronic; eſpecially in ſmall-pox, ſcurvy, ulcers, fiſtulas, rheumatiſm, aſthma, coughs, cutaneous complaints, &c. and though its medicinal efficacy was greatly exaggerated by the publications of Biſhop Berkeley, Prior, and others, yet Dr. Cullen acknowledges that he experienced this preparation in ſeveral caſes to be a valuable medicine, and that it "appeared to ſtrengthen the tone of the ſtomach, to excite appetite, promote digeſtion, and to cure all ſymptoms of dyſpepſia. At the ſame time it manifeſtly promotes the excretions, particularly that of urine; and the ſame may be preſumed to happen in that of others. From all theſe operations it will be obvious, that in many diſorders of the ſyſtem this medicine may be highly uſeful." [a]

* The proportions that have been commonly employed, are two pounds of tar to a gallon of water; which are to be well ſtirred together, then ſuffered to ſettle for two days, and the clear liquor poured off for uſe. From a pint to a quart, according to circumſtances, may be taken in the courſe of twenty-four hours. Dr. Cullen thinks with Mr. Reid, that the acid principle gives the virtue to tar water; and hence the Biſhop of Cloyne properly preferred the Norway tar to that of New England, as the former contains more acid than the latter.

[a] *Mat. Med. vol. ii. p.* 334.

An

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An ointment of tar is directed in both Pharmacopœias, which has been chiefly employed in cutaneous diſorders. Dr. Cullen ſays, " I have met with an emperical practice with reſpect to tar of a ſingular kind. A leg of mutton is laid to roaſt; and whilſt it continues roaſting, it is baſted with tar inſtead of butter. Whilſt the roaſting goes on, a ſharp ſkewer is frequently thruſt into the ſubſtance of the mutton, to give occaſion to the running out of the gravy; and with the mixture of the tar and gravy to be found in the dripping-pan, the body is to be anointed all over for three or four nights ſucceſſively; whilſt for the ſame time the ſame body-linen is to be worn. This is alleged to be a remedy in ſeveral caſes of lepra; and I have had one inſtance of its being employed in a lepra icthyoſis with great ſucceſs: but for reaſons readily to be apprehended, I have not had opportunities of repeating the practice." [b]

[b] *L. c.*

PINUS ABIES. NORWAY SPRUCE FIR TREE.

Pix burgundica. *Pharm. Lond. & Edinb.*

SYNONYMA. Picea major prima, ſive Abies rubra. *Bauh. Pin.* 493. Picea major. *Ger. Emac. p.* 1354. *Park. Theat. p.* 1538. Abies mas Theophraſti. *Raii Hiſt. p.* 1396. *Synop. p.* 441. P. Abies. *Hudſon. Flor. Ang. ed.* 1. *p.* 361. Abies tenuiore folio, fructu deorſum inflexo. *Du Hamel Arb.* 1. *p.* 3. *t.* 2. The Spruce Fir Tree. *Hunter's Evelyn.* 178.

Claſs Monoecia. *Ord.* Monadelphia. *Lin. Gen. Plant.* 1077.

Eſſ. Gen. Ch. *Masc. Cal.* 4-phyllus. *Cor.* o. *Stam.* plurima. *Antheræ* nudæ.

Fem. Cal. ſtrobili: ſquama 2-flora. *Cor.* o. *Piſt.* 1. *Nux* ala membranacea excepta.

Sp. Ch.