

in a vessel and the solvent poured upon it. With occasional agitation it is left standing for a definite length of time, the fluid portion being removed by filtration and preserved. The undissolved portion called the *Mare*, after having the little fluid remaining in it pressed out and added to that filtered off, is rejected.

(d) PERCOLATION.—The process of exhausting vegetable drugs of their principles by exposing them to the action of a solvent which is added in successive portions so that the drug is repeatedly exposed to fresh solvent. The drug having been suitably powdered and moistened with a portion of the menstruum, to prevent its swelling after being placed in position, is packed with requisite pressure in a percolator (a cylindrical or conical vessel with greater vertical than transverse diameter, and funnel shaped below), this having been prepared by having a non-absorbable material such as excelsior or tow placed in its lower end. A further portion of the menstruum is now poured upon the drug until it begins to drop from the lower outlet when this is stoppered and the whole is left standing for a time. Then the stop is removed and the process continued very slowly until the requisite quantity is obtained. The *mare* is treated as in Maceration.

EXPRESSION.—The process by which a drug is subjected to pressure until its juices are obtained.

FILTRATION.—The process of separating solids from fluids by passing the fluids through a porous diaphragm.

DISTILLATION.—The process whereby volatile substances are separated from non-volatile or those less volatile, by the aid of heat.

DESSICATION.—The separation of the watery constituents of plants or other drugs by the aid of currents of air, heated or at the ordinary temperature of the air, as in the drying of herbs or in the making of lozenges.

PULVERIZATION.—The reduction of any substance to the condition of a powder. Powders may be of varied degrees of fineness. This is determined by the number of meshes to the linear inch of the finest sieve through which any powder may pass. Sieves are made of 20, 40, 60, 80, or 100 meshes to the inch.

TRITURATION.—May mean the pulverization of a drug but more commonly it is used in reference to the intimate admixture of two or more powders by the aid of a spatula or a mortar and pestle.

GROUPS OF OFFICIAL PREPARATIONS.

ACETA—(VINEGARS).—Solutions of the active principles of drugs made by solution or maceration, with acetic acid as the menstruum.

AQUAE—(WATERS).—Solutions of volatile substances in water.