

were discussed, and some suggestions given in regard to their manufacture. As an excipient for quinine in pills, mucilage of acacia was recommended, or better still, pulv. tragacanth with the addition of a few drops of simple syrup. It was also stated that port wine was generally found much more acceptable to the patient than the sherry ordered in the *Vin. Quinæ*, B. P. The latter was probably selected on account of its containing a greater proportion of acid, but there was seldom any difficulty in making a reasonably strong solution in port.

Some discussion followed the reading of this paper, when another paper by Mr. F. H. Holgate was announced,

ON INFUSIONS AND DECOCTIONS.

After giving the general characteristics of these preparations, and stating the modes of manufacture, advantages and disadvantages, the writer made some remarks on the use of concentrated infusions. These compounds are generally prepared by percolating the drug with cold water, or dilute alcohol, as the case may be, and then bringing the extract to a definite bulk, so that by dilution with seven, or fifteen parts of water, the desired infusion may be readily prepared. In some cases this plan answers well, but it is not so well suited to others. This conclusion is also applicable to the preparation of infusions from the ordinary fluid extracts. The writer then went on to describe some experiments on the preservation of infusions by salicylic acid. The infusion selected was that of cinchona.

"Three lots were placed in a cool place; No. 1 containing the simple infusion; No. 2 containing 8 grains salicylic acid to one pint; No. 3, 12 grains acid to one pint. In about two days No. 1 began to decompose; Nos. 2 and 3 remaining perfectly sweet for several weeks. I concluded that 8 grains would be quite sufficient to a pint. As the acid is not a strong one, the difference in the taste is very slight, and in a mixture would be quite disguised by the other ingredients. I used no other substance to make a solution of the acid before adding it to the infusion—borax or boracic acid being generally used; I merely added the bark and acid to the boiling water, and macerated together; the result has been very satisfactory. Upon the whole, I would recommend the infusions of quassia, chiretta, calumba, and orange, and the compound infusion of gentian to be kept in the concentrated form, and Inf. cinchonæ to be prepared in the ordinary way, but preserved by salicylic acid; any other infusion to be prepared in the way prescribed by the B.P."

In reply to a query propounded at last meeting, Mr. Fraser read a short paper

ON SYLPHION CYRENIACUM.

This plant was described as belonging to the *Umbelliferæ*, and to be identical with the *Laser cyreniacum* or *Asa dulcis*, but not connected with the *assafoetidas*, as was supposed by some. It grows