

Greeks were acquainted with the plant. Fuchs—who by the way has had his name perpetuated to us in the word “fuchsia”—tells in his *Historia Stirpium*, published in 1542, of his having coined this name and of its relation to finger-hut, and there is no reason to doubt the statement.

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ACETIC CANTHARIDAL VESICANT.—A writer in the *Pharmacist* finds the following process—modelled after one proposed in England by Mr. Deane—to yield a cheap and reliable preparation. Cantharides, freshly powdered, eight troy ounces, acetic ether, q. s. Moisten the cantharides with five fluid ounces of the ether, and pack it lightly in a cylindrical percolator. Then cover with a paper disc, and pour on four fluid ounces of the menstruum. When the liquid begins to drop from the percolator, close the lower orifice with a cork, and having closely covered the percolator, set it aside for twenty-four hours. Then remove the cork, add more menstruum, and percolate for sixteen fluid ounces. If necessary, filter; and bottle in ounce bottles, labeled with the following directions: Paint the part to be blistered with the vesicant, using a small brush or bit of linen. Several coatings may be necessary, unless the epidermis is very tender, as is the case with children or delicate females. The action is hastened by covering the part with oiled silk or rubber cloth. In from fifteen minutes to one hour the blister will rise. It will often rise in ten minutes by using a little ether in wiping off the hardened film.

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ANALYSIS OF COMMERCIAL SULPHATE OF QUININE.—Dr. B. A. Paul (*Phar. Jour. & Trans.*) publishes the results of an examination of nine samples of quinine sulphate for cinchonidine. The sulphate of the latter alkaloid was in all cases present, in some cases in considerable amount. No. 1 showed 15.05 per cent. water and 9.19 per cent. of crystallized cinchonidine sulphate; No. 2, 15.51 water, 8.64 cinchonidine; No. 3, 14.9 water, 4.86 cinchonidine; No. 4, 15.04 water, 6.81 cinchonidine; No. 5, 14.2 water, 1.14 cinchonidine; No. 6, 15.15 water, 3.64 cinchonidine; No. 7, 13.67 water, 5.64 cinchonidine; No. 8, 8.1 water, 5.24 cinchonidine; No. 9, 10.37 water, 6.26 cinchonidine. In all these cases the amount of cinchonidine is slightly understated as some of the alkaloid escapes separation by ether. In several instances, as Nos. 7, 8 and 9, the amount of water present was below the normal amount—14.45 per cent.—which is accounted for by the salt being somewhat effloresced.