

but the active principle thereby designated is an alkaloid, crystallizable, of a white color, and so energetic, that the sixth of a grain is capable of causing in man the most alarming symptoms, which do not disappear till after the lapse of 12 or 20 hours. On the other hand, the concentrated preparation of similar name, is a complex substance, called resinoid, amorphous, of a greenish colour, and in the same quantity as the former, is a gentle calnivative. In like manner jalapin signifies a pure resin, transparent, colorless, odorless, and forming about 9-10ths of jalap resin, but as "a positive agent." this same term refers to a resinoid, opaque, of a light drab color, having a slightly aromatic odor, and a rather unpleasant odor, and in doses of two grains is an efficient cathartic. Again, sanguinarin, obtained from Canadian blood-root, when applied to the active principle, denotes an alkaloid of a white pearly aspect, which forms salts with acids, of an elegant crimson color, but when assigned to the concentrated preparation it expresses, a compound organic substance in the pulverulent form, of a reddish brown color, and incapable of entering into chemical combination with acids. And lastly, lobelin. This, referring to the active principle, means a liquid alkaloid of a light yellow color, and aromatic odor, thus bearing a physical resemblance to nicotine and, indeed, in activity is not very much its inferior. The same word, however, applied to the concentrated preparation, denotes a solid, reduced to powder of a cream color, and with a smell likened to that of an old honey comb. Its ordinary dose is $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 grain. This similarity of nomenclature in dissimilar substances, is a matter of regret, from tending to create confusion and misapprehension. In the work before us we find that the names of the concentrated preparations terminate with the letter *n*, whereas those of the alkaloids, when mentioned, end in *e*, so that *hyoscinamin* would mean the concentrated preparation, and *hyoscamine* the alkaloid; but this is a distinction that is very arbitrary, and not commensurate with the magnitude of the difference. Moreover, it is not supported by writers on materia medica, who indiscriminately write the names of active principles with the terminal syllables *in* or *ine*, and use the first more frequently than the last.

In addition to the four preparations above specified, the present work takes cognizance of 30 other concentrated medicines. With one or two exceptions they are made from plants which have been discarded from general practice. Physicians, from not having experienced, in their employment, sufficient virtues to warrant their retention in the materia medica, have in the spirit of that true eclecticism which has ever formed so marked a character in the philosophy of rational medicine, ceased to use them, and preferred others of less impotence. But the objections which apply to the herb do not necessarily apply to its concentrated preparation,