

CORRESPONDENCE.

OLEUM MORRHUÆ CUM QUINA.

(To the Editors of the Medical Chronicle.)

GENTLEMEN,—As the above preparation has attracted some attention in England and is frequently prescribed by medical men here, it may not be uninteresting to some of your readers if we describe the process we have found, after some experience, to be most successful.

A short notice of this article, appears in the London Pharmaceutical Journal of March, 1855, which, however, furnishes no exact formula for its preparation, and merely states, that it is a solution of anhydrous quinine in cod liver oil, prepared by adding the former in fine powder to the oil contained in a suitable glass vessel, and effecting the solution by heating in a water bath. We have observed, that by the continued application of heat, a very unpleasant flavor is communicated to the oil, so much so, as to form a serious objection to its use, and have endeavoured to avoid the difficulty in the following manner. We dissolve the quina in a small quantity of strong alcohol, of sp. gr. 0.796, and find that when this solution is mixed with the oil and gently heated in a water bath, the quina is dissolved without difficulty, as the alcohol evaporates. By this simple method, a perfectly clear liquid is obtained free from the strong flavor, imparted by the ordinary process.

The following is the formula we have employed, obtaining anhydrous quinine :—

Quinæ Disulph, ʒi.

Aq. Ferrentis destill, oij.

Dissolve the quinine in the boiling distilled water, then add liq. ammoniæ in slight excess, and collect; and carefully wash the precipitated quina. This should be dried on filtering paper and fused in a porcelain dish, in a sand bath. Thus obtained, it presents the appearance of resin, being of a dark brown color, translucent and soluble in almost any proportion in fixed oils. We have generally made our solution of the strength of 2 grs. of quinine, to one ounce of cod liver oil, but this may, of course, be varied to suit the pleasure of the prescriber.

A solution of caustic soda, might be substituted with some advantage for liq. ammoniæ, as quina is slightly soluble in excess of the latter, causing a slight loss which may be avoided by using the former precipitant.

We remain

Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

S. J. LYMAN & Co.