

Homœopathic Pharmacy.*

PREPARATION OF POTENCIES.

The homœopathic pharmaceutical practice, triturating and diluting of mother tinctures, is named subtilization or potentializing. This work is done according to two scales, the centesimal and the decimal. The centesimal scale was introduced by Hahnemann. Its principle is that the first potency must contain $\frac{1}{100}$ part of the strength of the remedy, and each following $\frac{1}{100}$ part of the preceding. Inasmuch as the mother tinctures are prepared after different directions, the medicinal strength of the diluted tincture or triturated powder must become unequal. The centesimal scale is known as the German scale; the second is the French or decimal scale. The first potency contains $\frac{1}{100}$ part of the strength of the remedy, while the following potencies are prepared each with 10 drops, or quotas, of the remedy to 90 drops of the neutral substance, of alcohol.

In order to make the first dilution according to Hahnemann, 1 drop of the mother-tincture has to be mixed with 99 drops of alcohol = 100 drops. Second dilution = 1 drop of the former to 99 drops of alcohol, etc.

Liquid substances must be potentialized in a room protected from the sunlight. Potencies must never be filtered. The name of the remedy and the number of the potency must be written on the cork. Centesimal potencies are marked by the letter C; decimal potencies with the letter D, or simply with the Latin numbers I, II, III, etc.

IN THE CENTESIMAL SCALE UP TO THE THIRTIETH POTENCY.

All bottles are to be placed in a row before the operator and then by means of the measure-glass supplied with the number of drops of alcohol prescribed in the respective directions, care being taken that the measure-glass is well emptied and the bottles afterward well corked. The bottles used for this purpose should be round, with broad, plain mouth, the edges smooth and not turned in or out. The bottles must be large enough to contain double the quantity of what is therein potentialized. Then the exact number of drops of the tincture or essence as prescribed is dropped into the glass bottle, which is marked for the first potency; the bottle is thereupon firmly corked and shaken with 10 vigorous jerks of the arm. C 1 is the label on the cork. Then one drop of this mixture is dropped into the next bottle, which is shaken as already described for bottle C 1. From this second potency one drop is added to C 3, which is treated in the same way as the two former potencies. In this way the potentializing is continued to the last bottle; one drop of the previous potency being always added to the next following bottle.

* Monatsblatt.

For the decimal scale the corks are marked D 1, D 2, D 3, etc., or I, II, III, etc., numbered from 1 to XXX. The operator has to take 90 drops of alcohol to 10 drops of mother-tincture for 1, then shake with 10 vigorous jerks of the arm; 10 drops from 1 being added to II, 10 drops of II being added to III, and so on until No. XXX is reached.

POTENTIALIZING OF DRY SUBSTANCES TO THE THIRD CENTESIMAL AND SIXTH DECIMAL POTENCY.

Dry substances, the medicinal strength of which must be first developed by trituration with sugar of milk, and to be worked up in a warm and dry atmosphere.

CENTESIMAL SCALE.

One grain of the drug is rubbed with 33 grains of sugar of milk for 6 minutes, scraped together (mortar and pestle must be unglazed) for 2 minutes, then 33 grains of sugar of milk added; repeat the operation; after 6 minutes scrape again for 4 minutes, add 33 grains of sugar of milk. Now work it up a third time, also 6 minutes rubbing and 6 minutes scraping. This is the first trituration or dry potency, C 1 d. To get the second trituration take 1 grain of C 1 d and incorporate it into 99 grains of sugar of milk according to the previous rules, C 2 d. In like manner the third trituration is prepared with one grain of the second. The triturating must be done with force, yet not so much as to cause the sugar of milk to adhere too strongly to the mortar as to prevent removal within 2, 4, or 6 minutes.

DECIMAL SCALE.

For triturating according to the decimal scale the same process as just described is pursued, the only difference being that 10 parts of the crude medicine are triturated first with 30 parts of sugar of milk twice for six minutes, with 6 minutes interval for scraping, then another addition of 30 parts of sugar of milk is made, and the whole manipulated exactly as before. This forms the first trituration, D 1 d, or I d; 10 parts of I d is in the former way well mixed with 90 parts of sugar of milk; it forms the II d, or D 2 d, and this procedure is continued up to the sixth trituration.

POTENTIALIZING OF THE THIRD CENTESIMAL AND SIXTH DECIMAL TRITURATIONS.

The medicinal substances which have been triturated after the centesimal scale up to the third, and after the decimal scale up to the sixth, potency are so subtilized that they may be mixed with alcohol or water and thus much higher potentialized.

FOR THE CENTESIMAL SCALE

make a solution of this trituration or bring the potentialized powder into a fluid state, in which its degree of potency may be carried further. To 1 grain of the third trituration are therefore added with the

measure-glass 50 drops of distilled water, and by a few turns of the bottle on its axis slightly dissolved; then 50 drops of alcohol are added, and the bottle, which ought to be large enough to leave a third of its space empty, is ten times shaken (that is with ten jerks of the arm). This is the fourth potency, C 4 d. One drop of this potency is mixed with 99 drops of strong alcohol, and the mixture, well corked, shaken with ten jerks of the arm, which gives the fifth potency, C 5 d. The next potencies up to the thirtieth are prepared each with 1 drop of the preceding one to 99 drops of strong alcohol and shaken with ten jerks of the arm, C 30 d. The letter d shows the potentializing out of the trituration.

DECIMAL SCALE.

Dry medicinal substances are prepared in different ways for the decimal scale up to the thirtieth potency, as some medical men who use these preparations prescribe the higher potencies in the liquid form, whilst others use the decimal triturations up to the thirtieth.

For dry potencies up to the thirtieth, 10 parts dry drug are treated with 30 grains of sugar of milk 3 times, as previously described. D 1 d, or I d; I d 10 parts with 90 parts of sugar of milk II d, etc., until XXX.

For liquid potencies up to XXX, one grain of the sixth trituration is dissolved in a small glass bottle in 50 drops of distilled water; 50 drops of strong alcohol are then added and the bottle shaken with ten jerks of the arm. This is the 8th potency, VIII d. The seventh would be not in keeping with the rules for this scale, proportion (1:9). Ten drops of the VIII d with 90 drops of diluted alcohol are shaken ten times for the ninth IX d; ten drops of this last with 90 drops of strong alcohol gives X d. From X d until XXX and higher the potentializing has to be performed with strong alcohol.

GLOBULE POTENCIES.

The moistening of the globules with the potencies is done in a glass bottle, not too small, filled two third with globules; the potency is dropped intact, the bottle corked and shaken so that all the globules are equally moistened. The bottle is then turned upside down and left standing 10 hours; after this time the cork is loosened a little to allow the liquid in the neck of the bottle to escape. The globules are in few days completely dry and ready for filling smaller bottles. Diluted alcoholic potencies are not to be used to moisten globules; so that if the lower potencies are required for this purpose, they must be freshly prepared with strong alcohol. Another method is to put the globules into a china cup; enough drops of the potency are added so that the fluid may drain the globules to the bottom, having moistened all the globules in a minute. The cup is then turned over on a piece of clean, dry blotting paper, to absorb the superfluous liquid, and the