

tral Asia. "This article occurs in the bazaars of large cities of Middle Asia, in the form of plates, or cakes of various shapes, mostly five to fifteen inches long, five to ten inches broad, and one to three inches thick; externally they are dark brown, internally greenish or brownish, of firm consistence, very tough, and almost incapable of being broken, but easily cut into fine shavings. They are prepared as follows: The resinous juice from the fresh unripe flower-tops is collected during Spring, mixed with sand and water to a doughy mass, which is spread upon a surface of clay and dried until it can be cut with a knife into plates. In a few days more the excess of water has evaporated, and the substance is ready for use. It is called hashish by the Russians, Nascha by the natives, Bang and Gunjah by the Persians, and is exported from Bochara to Chiwa, Tashkend, Lokant (Chokand) and other places.

The active principle of hashish has been supposed to be resin. Dr. Preobraschensky has, however, lately subjected hashish to a chemical analysis, and has found an alkaloidal body—not only in the commercial substance, but also in the flower-tops of hemp itself, and the pure extract prepared from it—which was recognized as *nicotine*. 150 gm. of the herb, distilled with water, furnished 25.4 mgm. of nicotine; 50 gm. of the herb, distilled with caustic lime and potassa, yielded 335.28 mgm.; 5 gm. of the extract of *Canabis Indica*, dissolved in alcohol and distilled, yielded a distillate containing 91.14 mgm. of nicotine, and 2 gm. of the extract, distilled with caustic lime and potassa, furnished 63.5 mgm. of the same alkaloid.

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## TINCTURE AND WINE OF QUININE.\*

Although the tincture of orange peel (in its various forms) is an agreeable and at the present time popular vehicle for the administration of quinine, it must be admitted that so far as the above preparations are concerned the officinal formulæ for both are somewhat unsatisfactory. If great care be not exercised in preparing them, and even where this care has been exercised, a considerable sediment will ultimately be thrown down which will be found on examination to contain more or less of quinine, and which of course necessarily impoverishes the preparation of its most active ingredient. The nature and cause of this deposit, so far as the tincture of quinine is concerned, have been very fully investigated, and the subject is now probably pretty nearly exhausted, but we are not aware that much attention has been given to the deposit formed in the far more popular if less important wine of quinine. Everyone who has prepared the wine according to the Pharmacopœia formula

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