

oil, bitter principle and a considerable proportion of saline matter, varying from 14 to 20 per cent., calculated for the dry plants. According to Godeschen, James and others, the variation is just as great for the bladder wrack as collected in different localities, and it is not impossible that this may be, at least in part, accounted for by having been collected in different seasons, the plant being assumed to be most active when collected after the sporocarps have formed, about the month of July. E. Marchand found (1865) in the ashes of *F. vesiculosus* 0·719 per cent. bromine; in *F. siliculosus* nearly the same amount, and in *F. serratus* 0·834 iodine and 1·007 bromine, while the ashes of the fucoideæ *Laminaria agitata*, Lamx. contained 5·352 iodine and 0·774 bromine, and *Lam. saccharina*, Lamx. about one-half these amounts (see also "Am. Jour. Phar.," 1854, p. 438).

Bladder wrack has been employed in France in the form of extract, prepared, according to Dannecy, by exhausting the plant with 54 per cent. alcohol; it is stated to represent 15 parts of the fucus ("Proc. Am. Phar. Assoc.," 1863, p. 66); also in the form of syrup, suggested by Potier (*Ibid.*), by exhausting 150 parts of the powdered plant with 14 per cent. alcohol, evaporating the tincture to 230 parts and dissolving in it 370 parts of sugar; 20 grams (1 tablespoonful) of this syrup represents 0·6 gm. of the extract and 5 gm. of the fucus, which is the average dose. A fluid extract might doubtless be prepared by a process similar to the officinal one for fluid extract of *chimaphila*; the average dose of such a preparation would be about a teaspoonful. If, however, the virtues depend mainly upon the iodine and bromide present, the dose would have to be increased very considerably.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS OF *PHYSOSTIGMA*.*

BY GEORGE W. KENNEDY.

One of the subjects suggested by the American Pharmaceutical Association was an essay on Calabar Bean, giving the readiest method of obtaining the various pharmaceutical preparations and isolating its active principle.

In response to the above query, the writer reports the following as being as easy and simple a process for the various pharmaceutical preparations of *Physostigma venenosum*, in my opinion, as can be offered for your acceptance. I experimented with various menstrua of alcoholic strength, and none of them gave the satisfaction as the one I herewith present for your consideration. Most of the pre-

* Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1875.