

and then filled with the melted aloes, and having a piece of muslin plastered over the opening in the gourd. This variety also comes in tins or boxes. Socotrine aloes comes into commerce infrequently in goat skin (or monkey skin?) containers but more commonly in tins, boxes or kegs. It is occasionally quite soft when received, but quickly dries and hardens on keeping.

OFFICIAL SPECIES OF ALOES.

Aloe vera, Linne (*A. perfoliata* var. *vera*, Linne, *A. elongata*, Murray, *A. barbadensis*, Miller, *A. vulgaris* Lamarck, *A. flava*, Pers).—Stem or trunk attaining a height of 1 to 1½ feet. Leaves densely crowded, 12 to 20 inches long, dilated below, tapering to a blunt point; margins with pale prickles; surface smooth, shining, dark green sometimes white-blotched. Flowering stem 3 feet high; flowers erect in the bud, afterward pendulous, arranged in an erect terminal raceme; the persistent membranaceous bracts exceeding the pedicels. Flowers about 1 inch long, tubular, yellow. This species is apparently native to the Mediterranean region but widely introduced throughout the tropics. It is the source of Barbados, West Indian or Curaçao Aloes. *Aloe vera* var. *officinalis*, Baker (*A. officinalis*, Forsk., *A. rubescens*, D. C.) is a larger Arabian form. *Aloe vera* var. *Chinensis* (*A. indica*, Royle, *A. Chinensis*, Baker) is a smaller Asiatic form with red-tinged flowers.

Aloe Perryi, Baker.—Stem or trunk about one foot high, simple. Leaves spreading, about 15 inches long and tapering from a 2½ inch base, pale green, or reddish but not mottled, the margin beset with rather small brown-tipped prickles. Inflorescence about 1½ feet high, somewhat paniced; flowers 1 inch long, reddish, becoming yellow, the green-tipped segments much shorter than the slightly constructed tube.

This species is now stated to be source of Socotrine Aloes, long ascribed to *A. succotrina*, Lam.

Aloe ferox, Mill. (*A. perfoliata ferox*, Ait., *A. muricata*, Haw., *A. horrida*, Haw., *A. pseudoferox*, Salm-Dyck, *A. subferox*, Spreng., *Pachydendron ferox*, Haw., *P. pseudoferox*, Haw.).—Stem 3 to 10 ft. high sometimes forked. Leaves numerous curved, lanceolate, glaucous, becoming reddish, 4 to 5 inches wide at base, 28 inches long, more or less prickly on both faces, the purplish margin with rather large red-brown teeth. Flower stem 4 ft. high, flowers 1¼ in. long, greenish yellow, with smoky-tipped segments, longer than the rather narrow tube. Native to the Cape region. The official source of Cape Aloes, to which no doubt other species contribute.

PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS OF ALOES.*

BY CLYDE M. SNOW.

The popularity of aloes as a therapeutic agent is attested by its antiquity, its considerable number of preparations and the tenacity with which they have held their places in the official books of this as well as other countries and in the practice of medicine. * * *

Probably the oldest preparation of aloes as well as the oldest pharmaceutical preparation in existence is Hiera Picra. It would seem from literature that this preparation was for sale in the shops of Damascus 1000 years ago and in Rome and Alexandria 2000 years ago in much the same form as we find it to-day in our stores. The common theory seems to be that it had its origin in one of the Aesculapian temples. Le Clerc attributes the first hiera to Themison, a physician who practiced in Rome 50 B.C. He used 100 drachms of aloes, 1 ounce each of mastich, saffron, Indian nard, carpobalsamum and asarum. Galen used a similar formula but made it into an electuary with honey.

* Read at the May meeting of the Chicago Branch of the A. Ph. A. as a part of a symposium on Aloes.

Pills of Aloes and Colocynth are said to have originated with the Greco-Roman physicians from Galen on. These came later to be known as *Pilulae Cochia*. The name came from the custom of earlier practitioners who were wont to order pills "the size of a coccus" (a lentil berry). These all contained Aloes with some other drastic purgative. "Coccion" meant a diminutive coccus, and pill of Aloes and Colocynth were frequently prescribed in this way. Subsequently this term was used to particularly distinguish these pills. The term is said to have come into rather general use in the seventh century, when Rhazes, the Arab, formally adopted it.

Pilulae Rufi may be traced to Rufus of Ephesus who lived in the reign of the Emperor Trajan. He invented a mixture of Aloes and Myrrh. This powder was later made into pills by the Arabs. Avicenna gave them under the name of *Pilulae Pestilentiales*. They were found in the early Edinburgh pharmacopoeias under the title *Pilulae Communes*.

Perhaps the first well authenticated preparation of aloes is the now famous *Elixir Proprietatus* originated by Paracelsus. He extolled the virtues of aloes in his *Elixir Proprietatus*. His claim was that it would prolong life to its utmost limits. Although he never gave a clear formula for it, his disciple, Oswald Crollius, deduced from his writings that it was tincture of aloes, myrrh and saffron with sulphuric acid. This medicine was very celebrated in all countries for many centuries. It has been official under the names, *Elixir of Aloes*, *Compound Tincture of Aloes*, and *Tincture of Aloes and Myrrh*. At the present time there is official in the "French Codex" an *Elixir Garus* containing aloes, myrrh, saffron, nutmeg, clove and cinnamon. This was so-called after a grocer named Garus who acquired great popularity under the Regency with his elixir. Saint Simon says, "he cured the Marechal de Villars with it and would have probably saved the life of the Duchess de Berry if the physician Chirac, jealous of his fame, had not administered to her a purge which killed her."

The Pharmacopoeia of the Royal College of Medicine of London, 1746, has among its formulas the following preparations of Aloes:

Gum and Resin of Aloes which is prepared from four ounces of Aloes. This is first boiled with two pints of water and then allowed to stand over night. The resin is precipitated. The supernatant liquid is strained and evaporated to dryness.

Vinum Aloeticum Alkalinum—Socotrine Aloes, Saffron, Myrrh, Ammonium Carbonate, White Wine. Digest for one or two weeks, then strain through paper.

Pilulae Aromaticae—Socotrine Aloes, Gum Guaiac, Aromatic Species, Balsam Peru. These constituents are made into a mass with syrup of orange.

Pilulae ex Colocynthide cum Aloe—Socotrine Aloes, Scammony, Colocynth Pulp, Oil of Clove.

Pilulae Rufi—Socotrine Aloes, Myrrh, Saffron. These constituents were massed with syrup of saffron.

Hiera Picra—Gum of Socotrine Aloes, 1 pound; *Canellae Alba*, 3 ounces.

Elixir Aloes—Tincture of Myrrh, Saffron, Socotrine Aloes.

Balsam Traumaticum—Benzoin, Styrax, Balsam Tolu, Socotrine Aloes, Alcohol.

That the popularity of Aloes did not wane in the next seventy-five years is evidenced by the large number of its preparations found in the first United States Pharmacopoeia compiled and issued in 1820. These include:

Pills of Aloes and Colocynth—Cochiac	Powder of Aloes and Canella—Hiera Picra
Pills of Aloes and Myrrh—Rufi	Tincture of Aloes
Pills of Aloes, Myrrh and Guaiac	Tincture of Aloes and Myrrh
Pills of Aloes	Tincture of Rhubarb and Aloes—Elixir Sacrum

That aloes held a premier position in the practice of medicine for the succeeding one hundred years is demonstrated by the increased number of preparations in our present official Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary, no less than twenty-seven being found in these books. They include:

Compound Extract of Colocynth	Hall's Dinner Pills
Pills of Aloes	Pills of Aloes and Asafetida
Compound Cathartic Pills	Pills of Aloes and Iron
Tincture of Aloes	Pills of Aloes and Mastic
Compound Tincture of Benzoin	Pills of Aloes and Myrrh
Extract of Aloes	Compound Pills of Aloes and Podophyllum
Antiperiodic Pills	Pills of Aloes, Mercury and Podophyllum
Vegetable Cathartic Pills	Compound Pills of Aloes, Mercury and Scammony
Compound Pills of Colocynth	Antidyspeptic Pills
Pills of Colocynth and Hyoscyamus	Compound Pills of Aloin
Pills of Colocynth and Podophyllum	Pills of Aloin, Strychnine and Belladonna
Pills of Iron, Quinine, Aloes and Nux Vomica	Compound Pills of Aloin, Strychnine and Belladonna.
Post Partum Laxative Pills	
Chapman's Dinner Pills	
Cole's Dinner Pills	

In the present day practice objection is made to the very disagreeable taste of aloes. This of course accounts for so many pill combinations, and has led to a demand for the deletion of the Tincture of Aloes from the tenth revision of the Pharmacopoeia.

OUR KNOWLEDGE AND OUR SKILL ARE INHERITANCES.

"Our knowledge and our skill are inheritances. They have been bought and paid for by the laborious struggles of men and women down through the ages, through sweat and agony, through suffering, poverty and deprivation. They are ours by inheritance only, and we are the trustees of that knowledge and skill. They belong to society. It is not a question of whether we should give back part of them as a charity. Our first obligation is to the society from which all derive them. Men have never sought to carry the treasures of knowledge to the grave. They have ever sought to give them to the world, and we, through our application and study, seek to acquire what they have given to mankind. But it was to all men that the knowledge was given. No chosen few that use it have the right to sell it for private gain to others who use it for private gain unless in so doing they confer a true benefit upon society as a whole."