

tions, provokes Womens Courses, and is used both internally and externally.

[The Plant which produces the *Gum Annoniacum* is not certainly known; it is supposed to be another Species of the *Ferula*, and many have thought the *Galbanum Sagapenum* and this *Gum* to be all produced by the same Plant, growing in different Climates; but as we now know that the *Sagapenum* and *Galbanum* are produced by different Plants, it wou'd be absurd to believe, that the *Annoniacum*, which is much more different from either, than they are from each other, shou'd be produced by the Plant from which we have either of them.

It is purgative in a small Degree, but is a powerful Resolvent, and excellent in Obstructions of the Viscera. The Dose is from a Scruple to half a Dram.]

## 27. Of Indian Dragon's Blood.

**THE** *Indian Dragon's Blood* is a *Pomet.* Gum that distils or drops from the Trunks of several Trees, whose Leaves are like Sword Blades, of half a Foot long, and of a green Colour; at the Bottom of which grow round Fruit, of the Size of our Cherries, that are yellow at first, afterwards red, and of a beautiful blue when ripe; in which, having taken off the first or outward Skin, appears a Sort of Dragon, which has given Occasion to have the Drug nam'd, though very improperly, *Dragon's Blood*, since it is the Gum of a Tree, and not the Blood of any Creature, as some believe still.

The Inhabitants of the Country cut the Trunks of the Trees, and there presently flows a fluid Liquor, that is as red as Blood; which hardens as soon as the Sun shines on it, and forms itself into little brittle Tears or Crumbs, of a very fine red Colour; and when the first and best Sort is fallen, there drops another. This is sometimes brought us wrapp'd up in the Leaves of the same Tree, in the Figure and Size of a Pigeon's Egg; but commonly it comes folded in the same Leaves, of the Length and Thickness of one's Little Finger, and sometimes also of the Size and Shape of the Scheffen. Chuse *Dragon's Blood* in little Tears, that are clear, transparent, and very brittle. The finest, or first Sort, is very scarce in France; the best to be met withal at present is what comes in little Reeds, which ought to be dry and easy to break, and that when rubb'd on Paper, or hot Glass, will leave behind it a beautiful red Stain; upon which Account, antiently, they used it to paint Glass red. There is some brought likewise in the Mass, which is like that in Tears, but the fine is difficult to be met with.

*Hoffman* thinks that which is in Drops, and is the very finest Sort, is made from the coarser, by dissolving of it, depurating it from its Feces, and inspissating; and that those Drops are first extracted with Spirit of Wine, because, being infused or digested in Spirit of Wine, it yields a delicate, blood-red Colour. It is good to stop all Sorts of Fluxes, whether of Flood or Humours, whether Defluxions from the superior Parts, or Fluxes of the Bowels or Womb, the Bloody-Flux, Whites, and Gonorrhœa, being inwardly given, from half a Dram to a Dram, mix'd with Conserve of red Roses, or some other proper Vehicle. It is good against Spitting of Blood, and stops Catarrhs, being of a drying, binding, and repelling Property. Being finely ground, it is used by Goldsmiths for Enamel, by Jewellers to set Foils under their precious Stones, for their greater Lustre. By Painters, Varnishers, and Japanners, to make Varnish and Japan, by mixing it with common or Shell-Lac, or Seed-Lac Varnish.

## 28. Of Dragon's Blood of the Canaries.

**THIS** *Dragon's Blood* is likewise a *Pomet.* Gum that flows from the Trunk and large Branches of two different Trees; after having been cut, the one of which has a Leaf like the Pear-Tree, but a little longer, and the Flowers bear a Resemblance to Tags, at the End of Laces, of a very fine red. The Leaves of the other come nearer to the Cherry, and the Fruit is yellow, of the Bigness of a Hen's Egg, in which is found a Nut, of the Shape of Nutmeg, which contains a Kernel, of the same Figure and Colour.

These Trees grow plentifully in the *Canaries*, especially in the Island of *Perto Santo*; likewise in the Isle of *St. Laurence*, where these Trees are call'd *Rha*, that is to say *Blood*, and their Fruit *Masentra*, or *Pasentra*. The *Natives* of *Madagascar* make an Oil of the Kernels of this Fruit, which serves them to cure Burns, Erysipelas's, and other Diseases that proceed from Heat. The Inhabitants of these Islands cut the Trunks of these Trees, from whence drops a red Gum, which they make into Balls, of different Sizes. But this Sort of *Dragon's Blood*, though good, is always so full of Dirt, that no Body cares to meddle with it. Some soften this *Dragon's Blood* by means of hot Water, and so put it into Reeds, like that which comes from *India*. The Inhabitants sometimes melt this Gum, and put little white light Sticks into it: and when they are cover'd with Gum, they take them out and dry them, to clean the Teeth withal; and these are