

B. Fincke.

Process of preparing Homœopathic Medicine.
No 93,980.

Patented Aug 4. 1869.

Fig. 1.

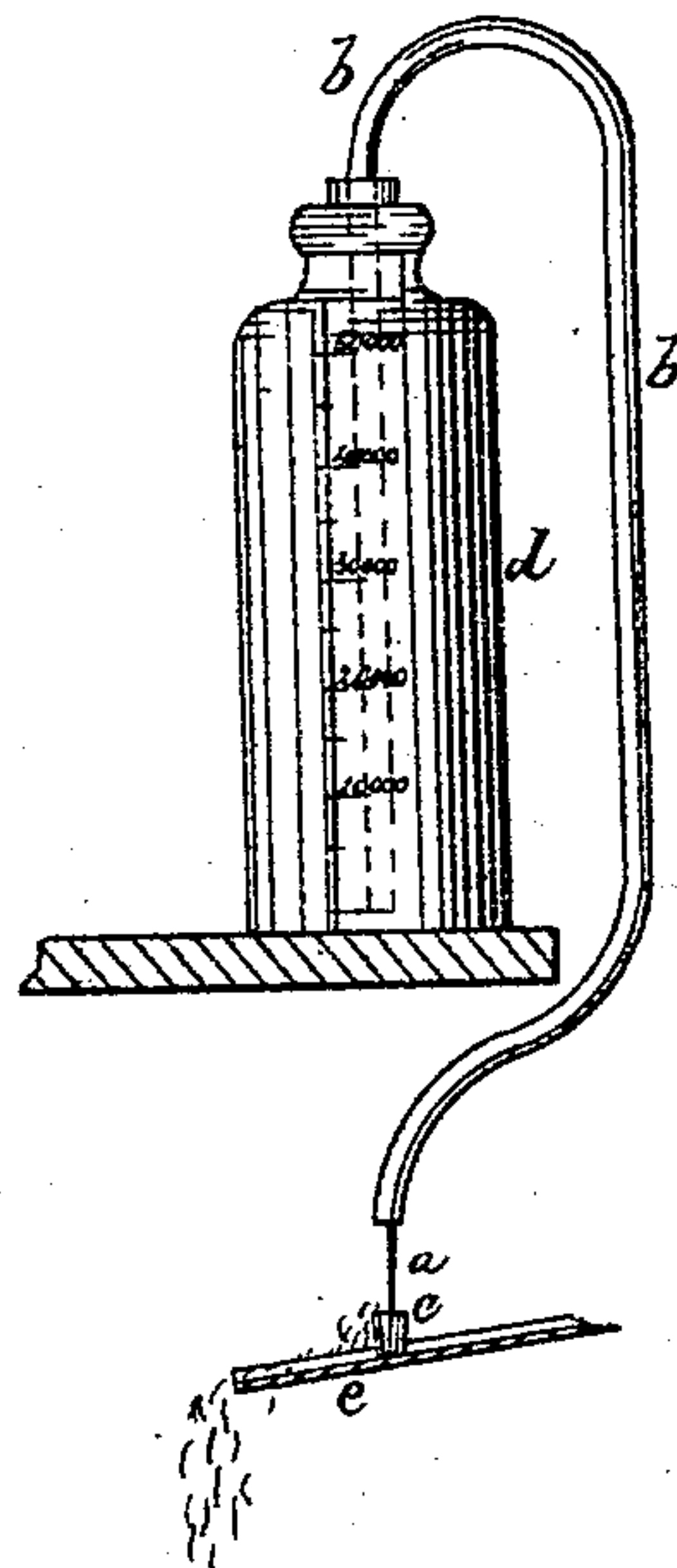
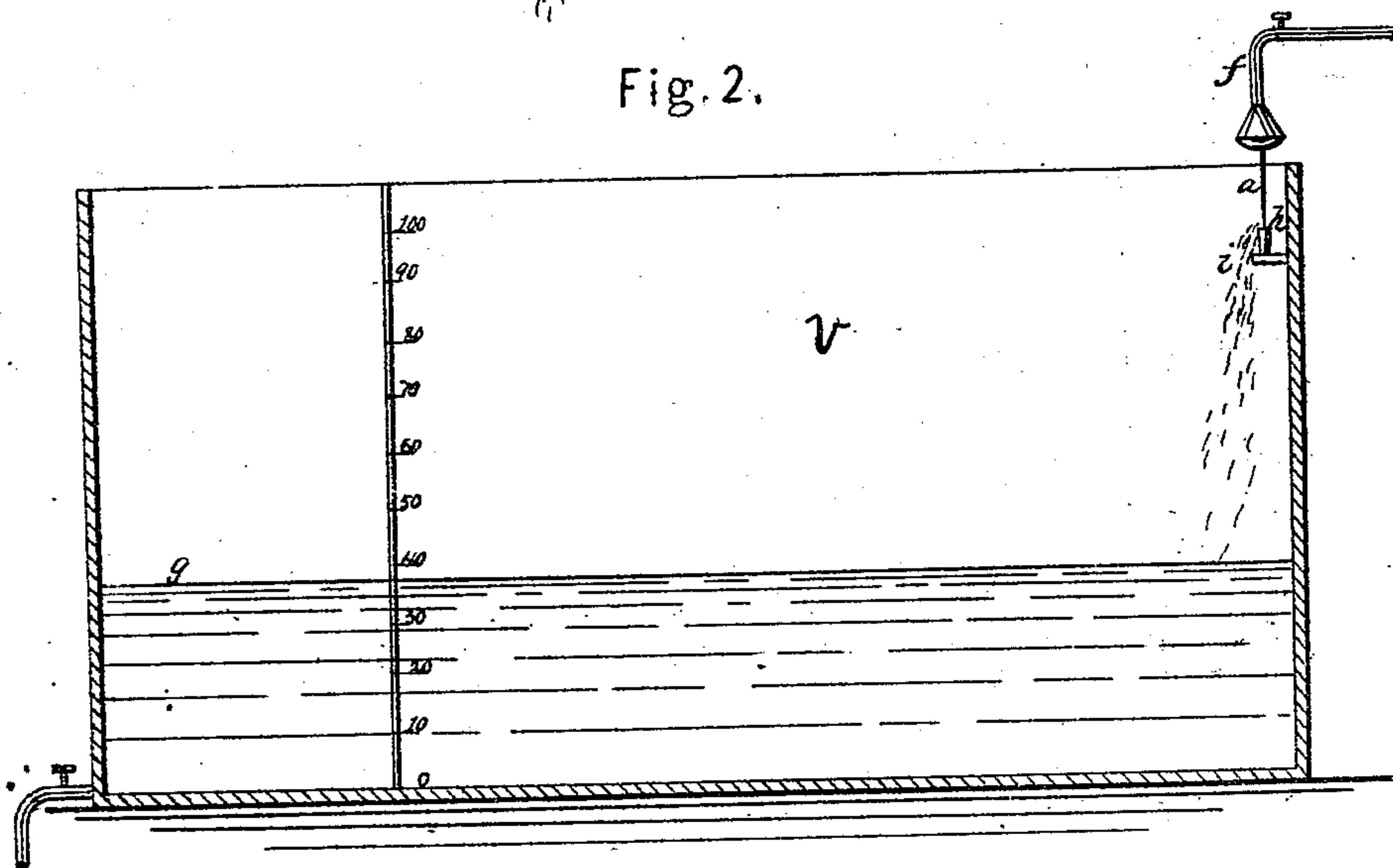


Fig. 2.



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Letters Patent No. 93,980, dated August 24, 1869.

IMPROVED PROCESS OF PREPARING HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BERNHARDT FINCKE, M. D., of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Method of Potentiating Substances; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 represent sectional elevations of the apparatus most convenient for carrying my process into effect.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The nature of my invention consists in facilitating, accelerating, and improving the process of potentiation, which is a process for gradually lessening, comminuting, attenuating, refining, rarefying, and infinitesimalizing substances by means of an indifferent vehicle in certain proportions.

This invention relates more particularly to the process of potentiating by dilution, so as to obtain higher potencies than ever reached before, and in less time, and with less labor and expense than it could be done without my invention.

In order to explain I will first describe the original modes of potentiating by dilution, as invented by Hahnemann and Korsakoff, and used hitherto by homœopaths only, and then describe my new process of preparing high potencies by dilution.

Potentiation was first invented, and used for medical purposes, by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, of Saxony, and his process was as follows:

Vegetable substances, yielded by a living plant, were pressed, and their juice mixed with equal parts of absolute alcohol, thus forming what he called a *tinctura fortis*. From that he made attenuations in this way:

Two drops of *tinctura fortis* were put into a vial with ninety-eight drops of nearly absolute alcohol. This mixture was shaken twice, and was called the first potency.

Of this first potency, he took one drop, put it into another vial with ninety-nine drops of alcohol, shook it, and called it the second potency; and the same process was repeated, thus producing the third and consecutive higher potencies, reaching as far as the thirtieth potency.

Of dry substances, such as minerals, powders, &c., he took one grain, triturated it with ninety-nine grains of powdered milk-sugar for one hour, and called it the first potency.

Of that first potency, he took one grain, triturated it again with ninety-nine grains of powdered milk-sugar for an hour, and called it the second potency.

One grain of the second potency, triturated for one hour with ninety-nine grains of milk-sugar, gave the third potency.

Of this third potency, he took one grain, dissolved it in ninety-nine drops of a mixture of pure alcohol and distilled water in equal parts, and shook it, and thus produced the fourth potency.

The further potencies were then made in the same manner as above mentioned for diluted potencies, by shaking one drop of the fourth potency with ninety-nine drops of alcohol, and so on, successively, until he reached the thirtieth potency.

The potencies so made, from the third upward, are known as dilution potencies, and the scale he used for marking the degrees is known as the centesimal scale, (1 : 100.)

This is what is known as the Hahnemannian method. The same was very inconvenient, as a great number of vials had to be used to produce a still inconsiderable dilution.

Count Korsakoff, of Russia, afterward discovered a modification and improvement of Hahnemann's method, which was accepted by Hahnemann.

His process is as follows:

He mixed one drop of *tinctura fortis* or potency, or one grain of a dry substance or trituration, in a vial with one hundred grains of water, shook it, and poured it out with a jerk, leaving about as much as one drop remaining in the vial, and this one drop was his first potency.

This remaining drop he mixed with ninety-nine grains of water, shook the mixture, poured it out, again leaving one drop, thus making the second potency; and thus he proceeded successively up to the thirtieth potency, and so on, successively, he reached the fifteen hundredth potency.

Whichever potency he wanted to preserve, he prepared by adding one hundred drops of alcohol to the remaining drop of the potency obtained, and by shaking it twice with the arm.

Korsakoff's dilution potencies are known as dilutions on the remaining drop, and his scale is the Hahnemannian centesimal, modified.

His process, although a decided improvement on Hahnemann's, is still very tedious, as each potency has to be produced by manual labor with close attention.

There are several other modes of potentiating by dilution known to and used in homœopathy for the preparation of remedies, but they are all on the Hahnemannian or Korsakoffian plan, more or less modified as to scale and proportion between vehicle and substance, and as to succession.

The process here in question, which I have invented for making high dilution potencies, although resting on the general principle of potentiation discovered by

Hahnemann, is new in its principle of operation, and in its mode of carrying it into operation, and the following is a full and exact description of the process:

The principle of operation is that of fluxion, by which I mean a regulated flow of water, as vehicle, upon the substance to be potentiated or diluted in certain proportions.

The mode of carrying this principle into operation can be varied at pleasure, but I prefer the two methods hereinafter described, which may be used separately or in succession.

In the first process, the vehicle is measured before bringing it in contact with the substance to be potentiated, while, in the second process, the liquid is measured after it has flown over the potentiated substance. Either process may be carried into effect by various means. I will describe one for each process.

If the substance to be diluted is soluble in water, as, for instance, *Natrum muriaticum*, $\frac{1}{100}$ part of a drachm of it is dissolved in $\frac{99}{100}$ parts of one drachm of distilled water, and this is its first dilution potency.

If it is insoluble in water, as a metal, or if it is an organic substance, of which it is not certain that it dissolves all its essential parts in water, one grain of it is raised to at least the third potency by trituration, according to the Hahnemannian method.

This potency is dissolved in distilled water, in the proportion of one grain to one drachm.

If it is a *tinctura fortis*, at least the third dilution potency is prepared according to the Hahnemannian or Korsakoffian method, on the centesimal scale, by using alcohol as a vehicle. Any substance so prepared is the potency on which the fluxion starts.

Such potency is exposed to a continuous flux of water, in a vial, holding, say, one and one-half drachm of water, and containing, say, one drachm of potency, by means of a small tube or jet.

If a small tube, *a*, is used, as indicated in fig. 1 of the drawing, it is secured to the lower end of a siphon, *b*, drawing the water, and reaches with its fine end near to the bottom of the vial *c*.

The water is filled in glass jars *d* of certain dimensions, holding, say, thirty, two hundred, five hundred, one thousand, and five thousand drachms, respectively, into which the glass or other siphon *b* is brought with its short end.

The jar is provided with a graduated scale, which designates the degrees of dilution by indicating the quantity of water.

The continuous flow of the water upon the potency in the vial, adjusted as aforesaid, effects the dilution of the same, and may be continued to any given degree corresponding to the amount of influx and efflux from the jars through the tube *a* in and out of the vial.

The vehicle in the jar, it will be seen, is measured before it is brought in contact with the substance in the vial.

After having diluted the substance, it flows over the mouth of the vial, and is or may be carried off in a gutter, *e*.

When the desired degree of dilution or number of potency is reached in the vial, by having allowed the required corresponding quantity of vehicle to flow through the vial, the tube *a* is removed, the fluid contained in the vial, being the fluxion potency, is put into a new vial for use or further potentiation, or if intended for preservation, the vial is emptied with a jerk, leaving about $\frac{1}{100}$ drachm of the contents in it, and $\frac{99}{100}$ drachm of alcohol is added to it.

The vial so refilled is or may be again exposed to fluxion, as above described, until such further potency is reached as may be desired.

When the tube *a* is removed, the vial is emptied to the remaining drop or $\frac{1}{100}$ drachm, and filled with alcohol, as aforesaid.

Different vials and tubes *a* must be used for different substances to be potentiated.

The second process, when the liquid is measured after it flows from the vial, consists in exposing the vial, holding, say, one and a half drachm, and filled with, say, one drachm of substance and vehicle, or potency, prepared as above described, to a fine stream or jet of flowing water at a distance of about one inch, said jet having power enough to reach the bottom of the vial, and to cause the liquid to bubble in the vial.

The required pressure is obtained and regulated by a faucet, *f*, arranged above a tank, *g*, as in fig. 2, the vial *h* standing on a platform, *i*, in the upper part of the tank.

The water, before it reaches the vial, may be brought through a filter.

The water-tank is so constructed as to be of certain dimensions, holding, say, twenty thousand drachms conveniently.

The measures, say, of five thousand, ten thousand, fifteen thousand, and twenty thousand drachms, are marked on a scale on the inside of the tank, so that the height of water in the tank can be easily ascertained. These numbers designate the degrees of dilution.

The potentiating-vial is placed upon the platform *i* in the tank, at a distance of about one inch between the mouth of the vial and the end of the faucet, or of a small pipe secured therein.

The stream is regulated by the faucet, so as to secure a steady, gentle ebullition of the water in the vial.

The faucet being turned on, a fine thread of water is, with some force, projected into the vial upon the potency; a fine foam ensues, followed by a constant bubbling of the fluid in the vial, and out from it.

As often as the amount of water flowing over out of the vial into the tank reaches the level of the water marked by the numbers aforesaid, the corresponding degree of dilution or number of potency is reached and obtained; the faucet is turned off, the vial removed; the fluid contained in vial, being the fluxion-potency, is put into a new vial for use or further potentiation, or, if intended for preservation, the vial is emptied with a jerk, leaving about $\frac{1}{100}$ drachm of the contents in it, and $\frac{99}{100}$ drachm of alcohol is added to it.

The tube *a*, reaching to the bottom of the vial, may be used, if desired, also in the second-described process of measuring the flown-off liquid.

It will be seen that for the purposes of potentiation by fluxion, the proportions of substance and vehicle, and of the flux and the vessels, may be arranged and varied in any desirable ratio.

In the above, I described the arrangement on the centesimal scale, which is an improved adaptation of the Hahnemannian scale.

The centesimal scale, if adopted in the fluxion-method above described, appears as follows:

In the first-described process, the substance and vehicle in the starting potency stand in the ratio of 1 : 99, and both fill the vial in that ratio.

Hence the potentiation proceeds in every differential of time in the same ratio of 1 : 100, *i. e.*, centesimally, as long as the flow continues, and at every moment of discontinuing the flow, the potency contained in the vial is a centesimal dilution, designated by the number expressing the sum of defluxion in the jar, this number being the measure of the water applied and flown in the vial.

Equally so in the bubbling fluxion, or last-described process, there is only one drachm of substance and vehicle in the vial, which is equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ drachm of substance + $\frac{99}{100}$ drachm of vehicle = one drachm of potency, and hence every dilution so obtained is necessarily centesimal. But any scale may be used in the

process of fluxion herein described, and I do not confine myself to any special arrangement of proportions.

For medical purposes, I use the centesimal scale as the most practical and safe.

If the proportions are extended to the ratio of 1 : 1,000 or 1 : 10,000 or 1 : 100,000, or otherwise, the process is adjustable accordingly, and the principle and operation are the same, only it will require a larger space than convenient for the average of practising physicians; also a stronger or weaker jet will have to be applied, as the case may be.

In that case the expense will increase, and so will the difficulty of control and the chances of error, while the apparent gain of refinement and time will be lost, perhaps, through the unwieldiness of the operation.

Considering that a drop of a high potency is sufficient to perpetuate it for all time, and for all mankind, it is easy to perceive that there is more practical advantage in the little than in the great analogously to the homœopathic remedies, which are beneficially and peculiarly efficacious in their state of infinitesimality.

The improvement and extended application of Hahnemann's centesimal dilution are observable in the fluxion-process, in this, that the new process supersedes the necessity of using large quantities of different vials, and of filling, emptying, and refilling the vials, for the preparation of each potency at each degree, and that with the new process, the potentiation through the different degrees is or may be carried on in one vial at the same time, in continuous succession, by the natural flow, pressure, or motion of water itself, thus effecting the dilution of the substance constantly in infinitesimal quantities of vehicle and time in certain degrees, and more thoroughly than by the old methods, and at the same time replacing the separate shaking of each potency, by the constant and continuous motion of the flux in infinitesimal quantities of action, and securing, throughout, a more intimate mingling of vehicle and substance in the given proportions, and by it the gradual lessening, comminution, dilution, attenuation, refinement, rarefaction, and infinitesimalization of the substance to any degree *ad libitum*, with a great saving of labor, utensils, expense, and time.

The process of potentiating by fluxion, as invented by me, may be carried on and up to any degree. It may be started from any given potency or high potency.

In fact, I make by it high dilution potencies for medicinal purposes in pulses of thirty, two hundred, five hundred, one thousand, and five thousand drachms, and thence to one hundred thousand drachms centesimal, or upward, by the first process, (scaturient fluxion,) and such potencies of medicinal substances are already tested, and found useful by homœopaths for curative purposes.

The centesimal potencies I raise by bubbling or ebullient fluxion in pulses of twenty thousand drachms, and in this manner I have already obtained the one millionth potency, (M,) and of some materials even the two millionth, (2M.)

In conclusion, I may say the fluxion-process will enable every physician to potentiate his own remedies to any degree desired, and in this regard, as from the automatic nature of the process, it might well be called self-potentiation, the usefulness of which is apparent, self-potentiation being as important to every good and true physician as self-dispensation.

The apparatus can be varied indefinitely, and I do not confine myself to any specific kind of construction of such.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Effecting potentiation by the peculiar mode of dilution, called fluxion, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

2. The process of potentiating by carrying the vehicle to the bottom of a vial, by means of a tube or jet, substantially as herein described.

3. Producing infinitesimal gradual dilution in one vial, by continuous motion of the vehicle.

4. Measuring the potentiating-vehicle before it enters the vial, or other receptacle of the material to be potentiated, for the purpose of ascertaining the degree of potentiation, as set forth.

5. Measuring the potentiating-vehicle by measuring the liquid which flows away from the vial, or other receptacle of the material to be potentiated, to ascertain the degree of potentiation, as specified.

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