

# [Oximel Pectorale / Rob Phytolae / Gelatina Comu Cervi] William Paine

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Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

Contributor Name

William Paine

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

cancer

Ingredients

elecampane

Florentine orris

spring water

gum ammoniac

vinegar

honey

phytolacca

poke weed

berries

leaves

branches

hartshorn

white sugar candy

wine

Spanish white wine

orange juice

lemon juice

**Source:** William Paine Papers

**Institution:** University Of New Brunswick | **Source Origin:** Loyalist Collection | **Reference:** MIC-Loyalist FC LFR.P3W5P3

Description

A recipe for an oxymel, a term generally used to indicate medicines made more palatable with the addition of honey or other ingredients, to be used as an expectorant. Followed by instructions for making an extract of phytolae (likely poke weed) used successfully in treating cancers and a recipe for making a sweet citrus gelatin from hartshorn.

First Notebook of Medical Memoranda, 1769, Reel 2. Image use courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society.

Transcription

Oxymel Pectorale, 1 Syrupi Melles Oxymelita

[R<sub>y</sub>] Take of y<sup>e</sup> Roots of Elecampane & Florentine Orris each half an Ounce, Slice, bruise, and boil them in a Quart of Spring Water till it comes to a Pint and an half. To the strained Liqueur add of unprepared Gum Ammoniac, an Ounce dissolv<sup>d</sup> in four Ounces of Vinegar, add also eight Ounces of Honey, then boil them together, and skim of the Matter which rises, and strain \_\_\_\_\_

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Rob Phytolae, 2 Rob et Gelatina

Take y<sup>e</sup> Leaves, tender Branches and the Berries ripe and unripe bruise them in a Marble Mortar to a Magma, strain and press out very strongly all Juices thro, a course Cloath, pour the express<sup>d</sup> Juice into a broad shallow broad Dish, to the Depth of half an Inch, let it stand in the Sun, till the Moisture is evaporated, and the Mass reduced to a Rob or Extract. This Rob has been credibly reported, to have cured Cancers by applying it to the Part It gives great Pain upon y<sup>e</sup> Application

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Gelatina Comu Cervi

Take of the Shavings of Hartshorn half a Pound, Spring Water three Quarts, boil them over a gentle Fire, in a glazed earthen Vessel, till one half is wasted, then strain off [f] the Liqueur, and add six Ounces of white

Sugar candy in Powder, four Ounces of  
Spanish white Wine, one Ounce of Orange  
or Lemon Juice, after which with a gentle  
Fire, boil all together to a thin Jelly

Annotations

**Oximel Pectorale**

A concocted expectorant made more appealing with the addition of honey.

**Elecampane**

A widespread medicinal herb also known as horse-heal traditionally used in expectorants.

**Florentine Orris**

An iris root used as a decongestant and expectorant.

**Rob**

“A syrup made by the concentration of fruit juice” (OED).

**Phytolae**

Likely phytolacca, or poke weed, a widespread plant used to treat inflammation and pain.

**Gelatina Comu Cervi**

Deer horn gelatin.

Oximel Pectorale / Rob Phytolae / Gelatina Comu Cervi recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/272>