Chapter Twelve
on
the Prescription of Decoctions
and on Purgative Pills

[157]
The *dodder-agaric* decoction
which is useful against black bile, and which
extracts burning and viscid tough residues
Take stoneless yellow myrobalans and seedless raisins twenty *dirham*
of each; crushed polypody and crushed turpeth two *dirham* of each.
Cook these ingredients in five *ratl* fresh water until one third of it is
left, then take it off the fire, throw into it twenty *dirham* from clean
red Cretan dodder (stems), and leave (that) for the whole night; at day-
break take it, make it tepid on the fire, then take it off, and press (the
stems); (now) strain off an appropriate quantity from the remaining
water, disperse in it one *dirham* of ground white agaric kneaded with
honey, and drink (this).

[158]
The *purging cassia* decoction
Take appropriate quantities of stoneless myrobalans, seedless fibre-
less tamarinds, plums, jujubes, and seedless raisins, cook it (all) in an
appropriate quantity of fresh water, macerate (some) [purging cassia
in it], strain off an appropriate quantity of that (liquid), and drink it
at daybreak.

[159]
The *agrimony* decoction
[which is useful] against inveterate
rheumatic-phlegmatic fevers
Take equal amounts of stoneless yellow myrobalans, seedless raisins,
fumitory, bull thistle, giant thistle, and agrimony leaves, cook (these
ingredients) gently in fresh water (in order to) obtain their extract,
strain off an appropriate quantity of that (liquid), and swallow it as
required.
[160]

The roots decoction
which is useful against obstruction, ischuria, and pain in the liver and stomach; it may be used together with oils or without them
Take appropriate quantities of the peels of fennel roots, the peels of celery roots, anise, Indian spikenard, mastic, madder, and seedless raisins from Taif, cook it (all in order to) obtain its extract, and use (this) in accordance with the main prescription.109

[161]

The prescription of the hyssop decoction
which is useful against dry cough, raucity of the chest, pain in the sides, and pleurisy
Take appropriate quantities of scraped (and) crushed liquorice roots, seedless raisins from Taif, dried figs, hyssop, sebestens, jujubes, and maidenhair, cook it (all in order to) obtain its extract, and swallow (this) on its own [or] together with (certain) oils.

[162]

The prescription of the absinthe [decoction]
which is useful against inveterate pain in the liver and different (kinds of) cold fevers, (whether) phlegmatic or black-bilious; it (also) makes the urine flow and mends intestinal putridity
Take appropriate quantities of anise, celery seeds, Greek absinthe, asarabacca, fennel seeds, citronella roots, Indian spikenard, and Indian laurel, cook it (all in order to) obtain its extract, strain (that) off, and drink it.

109 Compare recipe 163.