

Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing

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LOTIO DELPHINII.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

"A blockhead bit by lice put out the light and chuckling cried: Now you can't see to bite."

This verse taken from Greek Anthology might have been true in ancient times, but the present generation with its motto: "Time is money" requires a quick and effective remedy against *pediculi capitis* or sometimes even the variety *pubis*. The preparations of larkspur seed, *Delphinium consolida* have from olden times enjoyed a reputation and are still in great demand all over the United States.

For this reason our National Formulary Committee has made numerous experiments and has admitted a 10 per cent. *alcoholic* tincture in N. F. IV, as published in the reports of the Committee.

While this, without question, is a very effective remedy, a great many criticisms have been made on account of its high alcoholic content, which together with the present high price of larkspur seed, increases the cost of the tincture.

In his duty as assistant editor of the department of "Pharmaceutical Formulas" in the Journal A. Ph. A., the writer is always on the alert for formulas which might prove valuable to the pharmacist. In looking over the second edition of that excellent work, the British Pharmaceutical Code, 1911, published by our sister association, The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, I was attracted by the formula for *Lotio Staphisagriae*, Stavesacre Lotion. This is the nuresery hair lotion of the Edinburgh Infirmary Pharmacopœia and is employed as a lotion for children's hair to kill pediculi and their ova, by being applied once or twice daily after thoroughly combing the hair. According to Peter MacEvan's well-known "Pharmaceutical Formulas," 8th edition, 1911, p. 109 *"it is a valuable preparation, being certain in its effects."*

Based upon this formula I have constructed the following, omitting the oils of geranium, lavender and lemon, which merely act as a perfume, and replacing the Stavesacre by larkspur:

LOTIO DELPHINII.

Larkspur Lotion.

Delphinium, ground.....	100 gm.
Acetic Acid	50 cc.
Glycerin	50 cc.
Alcohol	100 cc.
Water, a sufficient quantity	
To make.....	1000 cc.

Boil the ground Larkspur Seed with 800 cc., of Water to which the Acetic Acid and Glycerin have been added, for 10 minutes in a covered vessel, set aside till cold, then add the Alcohol and allow to macerate over night. Then filter and add sufficient water through the filter to make the product measure 1000cc. The finished tincture has a brownish-yellow color, resembling tincture of quassia, and a strongly acetic odor. It is clear and even after standing about two months has remained clear. During this time I have sold it as "Larkspur Lotion" at five cents per ounce, the tincture bringing ten cents per ounce, and it has given good satisfaction to my customers.

I am making many experiments with this lotion with the object of improvement as f i. increase in acetic acid, glycerin and alcohol, and also using maceration and percolation instead of heat, and will report on this at a later date.

In my opinion the present lotion is far superior to a so-called tincture prepared by diluting 1 fluidounce of acetic fluidextract of larkspur with 1 fluidounce of alcohol and 14 fluidounces of water. The proportions in this so-called tincture are 60 and 60 in 1000 against 100 and 100 in 1000 in my lotion. The diluted fluidextract also forms a very heavy precipitate which very likely might contain some of the active constituents. And last, but not least, it does not require any pharmaceutical skill to dilute the fluidextract, while the preparation of the lotion gives the pharmacist a chance to practice pharmacy, and this his birthright he must not sell, as it will end his existence.

PERPLEXING PILLS.

R. ALBRO NEWTON.

Veterans are sometimes baffled by the tasks which are set before beginners. Of the many prescriptions used as a test of the ability of students, there is one type which seems fully as bothersome to the dispenser of considerable experience, namely, pills of Silver Nitrate or of Potassium Permanganate.

Bearing in mind the peculiar nature of these substances, we must all agree that ordinary excipients will not be allowable; something must be used upon which these active chemicals will not react. Looking in the text-books we find that Kaolin or Fuller's Earth with Petrolatum is suitable, but this combination makes anything but a nice pill mass to work.

I have experimented to a considerable extent on the process which I am now to describe, and the product is pharmaceutically elegant and therapeutically active notwithstanding the fact that one unfamiliar with it would say offhand that the pills would be better as bullets than as medicine. Experiments have shown that the mixture is completely disintegrated in the stomach and the chemical is presented in an active condition.

Now for the process. Type prescription, Potass. Permanganate gr. xii. Ft. pil. No. 12.