

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.

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### PERPLEXING PILLS.

R. ALBRO NEWTON.

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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.

Process. Place 12 grains Potassium Permanganate in a small glass mortar and powder finely. Weigh out 24 grains Paraffin, place in small porcelain capsule, warm until melted; allow to cool and when congealed loosen from capsule by running spatula around edge. Put powdered chemical in center of Paraffin and work into it quickly with fingers. Warm a pill tile slightly by pouring on a little alcohol and igniting it, then wiping with a clean towel. Roll out pill mass quickly into pipe and cut, shaping pills with fingers. No dusting powder is necessary or even desirable, but Talc may be used.

Not more than twenty minutes will be required to prepare this prescription. Stains on fingers may be removed by a solution of Oxalic Acid in dilute Sulphuric Acid. In the case of Silver Nitrate the hands should be washed in a dilute Cyanide solution.

Speaking of pills reminds me of another scheme which is not often spoken about in works of reference. Pills of Ferrous Carbonate are probably the most used ferruginous tonic and the official formula is of such excellence that improvements are apt to be frowned upon. However, I do not deem it a sacrilege to mention that the addition a small amount of Petrolatum will serve to keep the mass soft a very long time, with the added advantage of retarding the change of the iron from its ferrous condition.

I would like to state at this time that I am aware that occasionally Potassium Permanganate and Oxalic Acid are prescribed in the same pill, the object being to secure a pill of freshly prepared Manganese Dioxide. In this case the reaction should be completed by triturating the chemicals together thoroughly and then massing with ordinary excipients, a process not unlike that for making Ferrous Carbonate pills.