

syrup from the water-bath and filter. Finally add enough water through the filter to make the product measure *one thousand cubic centimeters*.

*Note:* Keep in a bottle covered with dark colored paper and well corked. In the northern latitudes, and during the cold season in some sections, the sugar may be reduced to 805 or 810 grms.

In conclusion I will say, that to be successful in preparing this and many other preparations, only the best and purest materials obtainable should be used. We can not expect good results from cheap, inferior materials. Consider as a guiding principle in your work the fact that there is nothing too good for the sick, that whatever is not good enough for your loving wife, your dearest child, and your father or mother—is not good enough for any one else. We should be conscious of the duty we owe to humanity, we should keep in mind that we are only the servants of the suffering, and as such should serve them rightly—with a sincere and honest consideration for their welfare.

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### SOME DISPENSING HINTS.

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In the course of my routine duties I have encountered repeated difficulties, the solution of which has caused me considerable worry and thought, and I herewith offer the result of some of these efforts, hoping that they may prove to be of some benefit to some of my fellow workers.

In prescriptions calling for camphor and menthol or phenol and camphor to be dissolved in albolene or similar bland, oily liquids, I have followed the practice of placing the solids, in a fairly fine state of comminution, in the glass container in which they are to be dispensed with a small portion of the solvent, then carefully heating over an alcohol lamp, with gentle agitation, until dissolved, to which is added the balance of the solvent. By this means the trouble of washing out a mortar is obviated and no loss of medicaments results.

Anyone who has had any experience with methylene blue remembers what an annoying chemical it is, for it has the habit of depositing small particles thereof upon everybody and everything when triturating it with other remedial agents. By using the *small crystal* form of this chemical and moistening it so as to prevent its becoming light enough to float about in the air, we have had no difficulty in handling it without annoyance. As it is usually prescribed in combination with fixed oils, the latter can be used to moisten the chemical whilst reducing it to a finer state of comminution—preferably in a glass mortar, which can readily be cleansed.

When filling a prescription calling for soft capsules, containing oils, it is very annoying (and at times exasperating) to find one or more of the capsules imperfectly sealed, due generally to a small portion of the oil coming in contact with the sealing lip of the capsule. We have adopted the practice of wiping off carefully the tops of the capsules with pellets of cotton moistened with chloroform, using

care to not have too much chloroform upon the pellets and have never experienced any unsatisfactorily sealed capsules since following this custom.

When dispensing prescriptions calling for Pulv. Opii or Pulv. Ext. Opii, it is wise to bear in mind the fact that diluted alcohol is the menstrum used in manufacturing the soluble preparations thereof. Far more sightly products will result if this fact be remembered.

There is one shelf bottle that is commonly found in drug stores that should be taken out and destroyed without delay, viz., that intended for cod liver oil, which is filled and refilled until it renders first-class oil unfit for use, the cause for which is well known to every experienced pharmacist. We make it a custom to bottle our cod liver oil in empty containers, not holding over one pint, thoroughly cleansed and perfectly dry. One of these filled bottles serves as a shelf bottle until it is emptied, when it is thrown away and another filled one takes its place. Thus we always have a fresh bottle open—and the rank smelling container is eliminated (or, better stated, prevented). By this plan we find a good use for some bottles that previously had contained products of questionable therapeutic value.

Our hypodermic tablet case has proven of great value to us when weighing our small portions of potent drugs—giving us, conveniently, a degree of accuracy that is difficult to get in weighing the drugs themselves.

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#### A PURE AD. LAW.

A Pure Ad. Law is not only a possibility, but among the probabilities of the near future. The success of that section of the Food and Drugs Act which relates to honest labels and advertisements has awakened possibilities in other lines of advertising. The National Federation of Retailers is hard at work molding public sentiment. The Associated Advertising Clubs of America freely state that many men in the advertising business recognize the need of such a law and are in favor of legislation which will ensure advertisements that tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. It has been pointed out that such a law will bring about fair competition between the big mail order firms who do business at a distance from the customers and the home merchant who must show the goods that he sells.—*Meyer Bros. Druggist.*