

U. S. P. formula, but found it impossible to make a stable preparation or one which would last more than two or three days.

I also found a number of pharmacists using the U. S. P. formula modified by substituting one-half the quantity of light calcined magnesia, and carbonating at the time of dispensing.

February 9 I had our Junior class prepare the solution, using the official formula with the modification which I am about to suggest, and also the official formula unmodified. In both cases I used a very poor grade of magnesium carbonate, and tap water, and did not attempt sterilization in any way. The preparations were both carbonated and subjected to the variable temperature of the laboratory.

After standing less than sixteen hours, the solution made by the U. S. P. method had become cloudy, and precipitated to the extent which you observe, after standing twenty-four hours.

The solution by the other method is, as you see, almost clear at the present time, and would be entirely so if it were not for the formation of a very small amount of mold.

The modification which I suggest and the method by which this comparatively stable preparation has been prepared is:

To place the citric acid and magnesium carbonate in a suitable container and add about two-thirds of the required amount of water. After the reaction has taken place and the solution is free from turbidity, the syrup of citric acid is added and enough water to make the required amount, after which the whole is filtered, placed in bottles, and carbonated.

It is obvious that if a preparation made with commercial materials will remain permanent for a month, then it should be possible to make a beautifully sparkling solution which will remain clear indefinitely by taking the precaution to use the best grade of materials and distilled water.

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THE CONTENTED DRUGGIST.

Contentment is a fine thing. It is the basis of happiness. The man who can be content with his lot does not need a very large lot. He will not have a very large one. The druggist who is so contented that he is satisfied to let well enough alone will find that as the cost of living increases it will become necessary for him to do without many things that he has previously regarded as necessities. Contentment is not a business getting quality. Live wires are not contented. They are restless. Ambition and contentment do not journey along together through life. If you want the kind of happiness that comes with contentment you can have it, but only at the expense of your business success.—*The Spatula.*