

Spiers, C. H.

Analysis of commercial butyl alcohol

J. Soc. Chem. Ind., 43 (1924), 251T

Steppuhn, O., and Utkin-Ljnbowzow, X.

Quantitative method for the determination of

Bayer 205 in serum, urine and feces

Klin. Wchnschr. (1924), 154; through *Pharm.**Weekbl.*, 61 (1924), 1260

Tschirch, A.

Simple reaction for distinguishing shellac from shellac substitutes

Schweiz. Apoth.-Ztg., 62 (1924), 615

Vuilleumier, E. A.

Confirmatory test for the presence of diethylphthalate in specially denatured alcohol

Ind. & Eng. Chem., 16 (1924), 1120CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC
METHODS.

Labat, A.

Rapid determination of peptones in gastric juice

Bull. soc. pharm. Bordeaux, 62 (1924), 121

A STUDY IN THE EXTRACTION OF NUX VOMICA.*

BY J. A. PIERCE.

It is a well-recognized fact that Nux Vomica is one of the most difficult drugs to extract thoroughly and economically.

Attention was drawn to a suggestion that the addition of 1% acetic acid to the present U. S. P. menstruum for tincture would aid materially in the rapidity of extraction, thus diminishing the amount of menstruum necessary to exhaust.

For the purpose of investigating the value of the modified menstruum over the present U. S. P. menstruum two parallel percolations were conducted. Five hundred grams of the same lot of drug were moistened, packed, macerated and percolated: using the process as described for Tincture of Nux Vomica, U. S. P. IX.

In undertaking this work, particularly on Tincture of Nux Vomica, it was thought that possibly the use of acetic acid might retard the usual fat extraction always obtained in Nux Vomica preparations, and that the use of this menstruum could be extended to Extract of Nux Vomica.

With this purpose in mind, the percentage of oil or fats obtained by each of the aforementioned methods was determined and found as follows:

U. S. P. IX menstruum	2.93%
U. S. P. IX menstruum plus acetic acid 1%	2.22%

When 1667 cc. of percolate from each percolator had been obtained, an assay for total alkaloids was made with results as follows:

U. S. P. menstruum (IX)	0.276 Gm. per 100 cc.
U. S. P. menstruum (IX) plus acetic acid	0.290 Gm. per 100 cc.

Continuing the percolation of each, it was found that for complete exhaustion by Mayer's reagent test; it was necessary to use:

Of U. S. P. IX menstruum	7054 cc.
Of U. S. P. IX menstruum plus acetic acid	3857 cc.

Portions of the percolates were worked up into extracts, fluidextracts, and tinctures. No difference was found between the products prepared by the U. S. P. and the modified procedures.

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Buffalo meeting, 1924.

Conclusions: From the foregoing it is concluded that the addition of 1% acetic acid materially decreases the amount of menstruum necessary to exhaust Nux Vomica, without injuring the quality of the products. It does not prevent the extraction of fat sufficiently to make it of value from this standpoint.

LABORATORIES OF
E. R. SQUIBB AND SONS,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

WHAT IS A MODERN DRUG STORE?*

BY F. W. E. STEDEM.

This is a question to be replied to according to the observer's point of view. It may be answered in like manner. The writer, believing that a "drug store" is a place in which such things are done as are primarily helpful to the doctor in his efforts to heal the sick, quite naturally will describe a "modern drug store" as his ideal appeals to him.

It is not the intention to criticize any one, anywhere, or for any reason, where drug stores are conducted differently than the way the writer would have you believe the "Modern Drug Store" should be conducted.

The writer has often been vastly amused by and through his experiences, in visiting drug stores in his own home city and in other cities. The sign frequently reads "Modern Drug Store," "The Up-to-Date Drug Store," "The Drug Store of The People."

During these visits, the inquiry usually resorted to on entering the drug store is for "sterile water" followed by an order for an eight-ounce bottle. The number of failures to get an encouraging response is startling. The replies to the inquiry and order ranging, from one indicating a total lack of knowledge of the article wanted, to a lame excuse for not "stocking it"—because of lack of need or orders for it.

The next procedure is the presentation of a prescription order, for two drachms of 1% solution of atropine sulphate, sterile, and in six cases out of ten, in a quest recently made, the failure to get response of an assuring nature, caused a withdrawal of the order.

Now, as clearly indicated at the outset of this writing, it is not the intention of the writer to criticize anyone, anywhere, because of his ideals, in the conduct of a drug-store business, but such experiences as these related certainly must and do cause a great deal of adverse criticism of drug stores, drug-store methods and druggists.

The writer believes that many good druggists are compelled by the exigencies of their particular cases, to carry side-lines of great variety, the merchandising of which and the resultant profit make it possible for them to remain in their chosen localities, and when the department of medicinal supplies and prescription work is properly manned and conducted, honor and respect are the reward.

The writer has in mind individually owned as well as chain stores, where the department of sick-room supplies and prescriptions is conducted in a manner beyond reproach.

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing A. Ph. A., Buffalo meeting, 1924.