

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Compiled by A. G. DuMez, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy.

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THE ARSENICAL SOLUTIONS.

No. 2.* *Liquor Acidi Arsenosi (De Valangin's Solution).*

BY H. A. LANGENHAN.**

History and Original Formulas.—According to Pereira¹ Dr. De Valangin, a Swiss physician practicing in London, introduced the *solutio solventis mineralis* into medical practice. Inasmuch as De Valangin died in 1805, this must have been done not long after Fowler's Solution made its appearance in 1783.

According to Dr. Withering² an aqueous solution of arsenic trioxide had been used under his supervision, but this solution decomposed. Hence he discontinued its use and substituted Fowler's Solution in its place. So little is known about De Valangin's work that it does not become apparent whether he attempted to make a more stable solution by adding the hydrochloric acid, whether he desired an acid solution in distinction to Fowler's alkaline solution, or whether he thought he had a distinctively new preparation.

This much becomes apparent from Pereira's account, that he sublimed a mixture of "arsenious acid" and "common salt," that the sublimate was designated as

* For No. 1 see "Trans. Wisc. Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters," v. 20, or Bull. U. of Wisc., "Liquor Potassii Arsenitis".

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¹ *Pharm. Jour.*, 8, p. 395 (1849).

² See Fowler's report, "Trans. Wisc. Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts," v. 20.