

gas warfare at its height. There were 199,438 American casualties due to shells and bullets. Of these 46,659—roughly one in every four—died. Concerning gas casualties, we had 74,779, of which 1400 died. This shows that the man who was gassed had about 10 times more chance of living than the poor fellow who was mutilated by high explosive. The significance of chemical warfare materials is shown by their use during the war. The Germans used 50% of explosives and 50% of gas munitions in 1918, while toward the close of the war the U. S. Army filled 40% of their artillery shells with gases.

Reports of previous wars show that of 100 men wounded with weapons, 22 remained dead on the field, while, of the remainder, 8 died from wounds, thus showing a mortality figure of 30%. With chemical warfare materials different figures show for the various Armies:

American Army	2.4% Mortality
German Army	3—
French Army	2.9%
English Army	3.3%

Comparing these figures with those obtained from earlier warfare materials, it is conclusive that the introduction of chemical warfare has lowered the mortality and the cruelty of warfare to a tenth of its previous figure.

The history of warfare has shown that ancient and even mediæval battles were more deadly and less humane, while from the above figures it may be seen that modern warfare is becoming less lethal and more humane.

In spite of the above facts we have many pacifists and sentimentalists who are doing their best to prohibit the use of gas warfare. This was especially true of the time previous to the Washington Conference. Are we to base our conclusions of military tactics on facts or sentiment? If we are to prohibit gas warfare, let us first endeavor to abolish war altogether.

SOLID PETROXOLIN AS A BASE FOR PERU BALSAM OINTMENT.*

BY J. L. BRED AHL.

Balsam of Peru is nearly always employed in the form of an ointment. The universal difficulty in getting a satisfactory base for Ointment of Balsam of Peru prompts me to write this short article.

A smooth ointment can be made by incorporating Peru Balsam into petrolatum. After standing, however, the ointment separates, due to the insolubility of the Balsam in the hydrocarbon base.

The base generally prescribed is lanolin or lard. And here is where the pharmacist's trouble begins. Balsam of Peru is not soluble in these fatty bases and as a result separation of the ointment takes place which at once ruins the product. It is impossible to make a permanently smooth ointment having a good consistency when lard or lanolin is used as the base.

It has been suggested that lard or lanolin may be used as a base for Ointment of Peru Balsam without difficulty if the latter be first emulsified with a small quantity of water. This sounds reasonable but it does not work out in practice.

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.

Solid Petroxolin is a desirable ointment base for reasons well known to pharmacists. Because of the soap and wax in this base it works admirably for the incorporation of any amount of Peru Balsam. A smooth ointment with a good consistency results, and from all indications is permanent.

An ointment was prepared on October 16, 1925, as follows:

Solid Petroxolin	70 Gm.
Balsam of Peru	30 Gm.

Another ointment was made April 23, 1926, as follows:

Solid Petroxolin	50 Gm.
Balsam of Peru	50 Gm.

Both of these ointments have remained permanent. No signs of separation have occurred at any time. Both samples present a smooth, even consistency. From a pharmaceutical standpoint, Solid Petroxolin is the best base available for making an ointment of Peru Balsam, which meets the requirements of a permanent and suitable product.

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BUSINESS OR PROFIT—WHICH?*

BY P. HENRY UTECH.

"Business" according to Webster "is the exercise of one's knowledge and experience for purposes of gain." In this succinct phrase, we have what might be termed the basic factors or empiric formula for commerce or trade. In practice, however, these factors have a wide and varied application and it is therefore in direct ratio as these qualities are properly adjusted and intelligently applied to modern mercantile conditions that the success or failure of any given business or enterprise is determined.

Due to the many inroads made upon the business of pharmacy within recent years, it is highly important that greater emphasis be placed upon these fundamental principles; that more attention be given to detail and that better business methods generally be practiced by the pharmacist of the future if he is to combat successfully the many new forms of competition which have invaded the drug business within recent years. Carlyle doubtless did not visualize the practice of pharmacy a century hence, nevertheless his admonition is exceedingly timely and *apropos* when he tells us that "our grand business is not to see what lies dimly in the distance, but to do what lies clearly before us."

A casual survey of the drug business during a score of years reveals much interesting information. Many of us who have not yet reached that "sere and yellow age" of which the poets sing, can recall quite vividly the time when drugs, medicines and household remedies, in fact remedial agents of every character, were to be obtained only at the neighborhood drug store. In that ante-bellum age we somehow were obsessed with the belief that, as pharmacists, this was our peculiar and particular prerogative and ours only. Within the past decade or so, there has come an awakening. Changes have been wrought in the drug business that have been little

* Read before Section on Commercial Interests, A. Ph. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.