

was satisfactory for use as a preliminary to a short final check of the activity of strophanthus preparations by the M. L. D. Frog Heart Method.

Trials were made on one lot of F. E. Squill, one of F. E. Convallaria and one of F. E. Veratrum Viride all of which can be tested by the M. L. D. Frog Method. The purified Veratrum Viride failed to develop any color with the alkaline picrate. The purified squill solution developed color very slowly and then not enough color in proportion to its physiological activity. The purified convallaria solution also failed to develop color in proportion to its physiological activity compared with digitalis.

#### SUMMARY.

1. Strophanthus preparations can be assayed in a preliminary way and with fair accuracy by the picric acid colorimetric method—the comparison with results by the frog method being reasonably satisfactory.

2. Either U. S. P. ouabain, 1 to 25,000 or tincture strophanthus U. S. P. X, 1 to 140 are quite suitable as standards.

3. Purification of solutions is not necessary and total activity is apparently always proportional though not equal to alimentary absorbable activity.

4. The colorimetric method is not suitable for the assay of squill, convallaria and veratrum preparations as judged by one attempt on each.

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## STABILITY OF TENTH NORMAL POTASSIUM DICHROMATE VOLU-METRIC SOLUTION.

BY M. W. CAREY.

"I found an old bottle of Potassium Dichromate tenth normal V. S. recently in our laboratory stock which had been made and standardized in 1903. At that time it had a factor of 1.004.

"Since the solution appeared to be in good condition I refactored it and found rather to my surprise that there had been no appreciable change in strength. The factor as I find it now is 1.001.

"The solution had been kept during the past 23 years in an 8-liter, flint glass bottle with an ordinary cork stopper—the bottle about two-thirds full. In color and clarity it appears like a freshly-made solution, on agitation, however, a slight sediment was disclosed in the bottom of the bottle.

"It is surprising that a solution of this kind should keep so well."

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