BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

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

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Lancet (Sept. 1, 1928); through *Chem. & Drug.*, 109 (1928), 396

GERMICIDAL POWER OF ESSENTIAL OILS.

An investigation into the germicidal powers and capillary activities of certain essential oils. S. Rideal, E. K. Rideal and A. Sciver, —*Perfume & Essen. Oil Rec.*, 19 (1928), 285 Special No. Through *Squibb's Abstract Bulletin*. Twenty per cent soap emulsions of a number of essential oils were tested by the standard Rideal-Walker method; the strain of *B. Typhosus* used in previous investigations was also used here. Surveyal of the Rideal-Walker coefficients of some 26 pure samples of well-known essential oils indicates that quite a number of them give a coefficient many times greater than a number of commercial disinfectants on the market; some of them, such as palmarosa (9.0), cinnamon leaf (7.5) and cloves (8.0) may well be styled higher coefficient disinfectants. In a general sense it was noticed that these oils which proved to have a high germicidal power also formed a stable soap emulsion and *vice versa*. Although the authors have not decided the exact relationship between the chemical composition of the oils and their germicidal power, they suggest that in a few cases the germicidal power is roughly proportional to the percentage of one chemical substance in a chosen series of oils; *e. g.*, oil of cloves contains 90% of the phenol, eugenol, and has a coefficient of 8.0; cinnamon leaf contains about 85% of eugenol, and has a coefficient 7.5; and bay oil contains about 60% eugenol, and has a coefficient of 5.5. Essential oils when dissolved in pure B. P. paraffin lower the interfacial surface tension between the B. P. paraffin and water. From a relatively short series of tests it was evident that disinfectants may be evaluated, in a general way, by means of their surface tension lowering effect. Some oils—lime, white camphor, and eucalyptus—form quite stable peroxides of some of their constituents, similar to the well-known case of benzaldehyde. It was found that these peroxides possess considerable germicidal power, large enough to elevate the coefficient of the oil itself. Besides the oils already mentioned, the following were studied: Japanese mint, Boio de Rose, Coriander, Java Citronella, Lavender, Patchouli, Cassia, Lemon, Orange, Bay, Spearmint, Cajuput, Wormseed, Sassafras, Sweet Birch, Kananga, Juniper Berry, etc.—J. P.