

frequently until the sugar was dissolved. If the solution of sugar and potassium citrate is first made and the acid added to this, solution takes place very slowly, from one to three days being required, depending upon the density of the sugar solution. During this time appreciable hydrolysis of the acid takes place. If glycerin is saturated with potassium citrate the solution is very viscous and several days are required for solution of the acid although, in this mixture, hydrolysis of the acid is not great during the process of solution.

Two very interesting problems were brought forcefully to mind during this work. The first one is that of the relative quantities of the acid, the potassium citrate, and water most advantageous to use in making such solutions. Very little was done in this connection but it was shown by one series of experiments that in a one part aspirin, three parts potassium citrate, ten parts water mixture, more aspirin dissolved than in a 1, 1, 10 or 1, 2, 10 or 1, 4, 10 or 1, 5, 10 proportion. By doubling the proportion of water, solution was very promptly completed in the 1, 3, 20 combination, while the others were but little affected by the increased amount of water.

The second and most interesting question is—What is the nature of the combination, if any, of acetylsalicylic acid and potassium citrate that makes the acid more soluble? This latter question is still open for study.

SUMMARY.

The experiments described show that in a solution of acetylsalicylic acid in potassium citrate the hydrolysis of the acid, which is complete in about two weeks, can be reduced to about thirty per cent in four to six days by the addition of sugar and that thereafter no further hydrolysis takes place within thirty days. This is assuming that the rate of hydrolysis of the acid is accurately shown by the increase in acidity.

It is also evident that an acetylsalicylic acid-glycerin-potassium citrate solution behaves in much the same manner.

The best proportions of acid, potassium citrate and water seem to be about one of acid, three of potassium citrate and fifteen to twenty of water. Such a solution saturated with sugar seems to undergo the least change.

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CANADIAN MEETINGS.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION met in Toronto, September 4, 1877; William Saunders, of London, Ontario, was elected president. The second meeting in Canada was held at Montreal, August 12, 1896, and Joseph E. Morrison was elected president of the ASSOCIATION. Since the meetings mentioned the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association has been organized, so that the convention in Toronto in August will be a joint meeting with our sister organization, to which many A. PH. A. members are looking forward with happy anticipations. This will be the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and the 80th annual meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL

ASSOCIATION; the Ontario Retail Druggists will also be in session, thus the convention will be international, and it is hoped the Associations of a number of countries other than those named will be represented by delegates.

Sir Henry S. Wellcome, Honorary President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, has been elected fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. This is the second time that a person, not holding a medical degree aside from members of the Royal Family, has been thus honored; the other recipient was Field Marshall, Lord Roberts; Hon. Lord Dawson, Physician to His Majesty was given the same distinction by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.