

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. Eberle, 10 West Chase Street, Baltimore, Md.

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LET US ASSIST YOU IN SOLVING PRESCRIPTION PROBLEMS.

Dr. S. L. Hilton, former President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and Chairman of its Council, well and favorably known pharmacist of Washington, will answer problems that come up in prescription practice. We, therefore, invite those who have problems to send them to this office at 10 W. Chase St., Baltimore.

A correspondent asks for a formula containing zinc oxide, boric acid, menthol, bismuth and eucalyptol, lanoline and white vaseline.

Dr. Hilton suggests the following:

Menthol	8.0
Eucalyptol	33.0
Bismuth subnitrate	100.0
Boric acid	100.0
Lanolin, hydrous	100.0
Zinc oxide	100.0
White vaseline	559.0

Make an ointment.

PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF BERNE.

A reprint has been published by Prof. Dr. A. Tschirch, describing the new Pharmaceutical Institute of Berne University, which has recently been completed. The building is erected on the wide area near the Pharmacological Institute. It is fitted for teaching as well as research and is divided into five sections, namely, (1) pharmaceutical and forensic

chemistry and toxicology, (2) pharmacognosy, (3) pharmaco-anatomy, (4) galenical pharmacy, (5) the pharmaceutical central library.

The rooms are arranged on three floors. In the middle floor is the general laboratory, the laboratory for degree students and the directors and assistants' laboratories. The second floor contains rooms for microscopy lectures, laboratory, the herbarium, museum, etc. There is a photographic section, department for ultramicroscopic pH determinations, provisions for colorimetric work, and also a laboratory for forensic analysis, etc. The east wing is occupied by a laboratory for the analysis of proprietary and secret remedies. In the courtyard a glass house for experimental cultures has been erected and ground is available for the laying out of the medicinal plant garden.

Dr. Tschirch is an honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

SODIUM SALT OF BARBITURIC ACID DERIVATIVE AS NEW ANESTHETIC.

Ernst points out that, although the methods of general anesthesia applicable in clinics and hospitals have been greatly improved in recent years, the physician in general practice, particularly in emergency surgery, is still at a disadvantage. Recently a sodium salt of a barbituric acid derivative has been prepared and found to produce a satisfactory short general anesthesia. Tests revealed that the intravenous injection of 10 cc. of a 10 per cent

aqueous solution of the sodium salt is the best method of application.

STERILIZATION IN HOSPITAL PHARMACY.

At a meeting of Public Pharmacists, London, Mr. Davis said "it was essential to acquire some knowledge of the habits of the organisms which give rise to bacterial contamination. The ideal method of doing this was to perform simple practical experiments with culture media. An autoclave, a hot air oven and possibly a steamer should be available in all dispensaries. The use of a steamer can possibly be avoided as experience in the sterilization of culture media has shown that steaming for an hour has not succeeded in killing certain types of resistant spores. To produce sterility it would appear that steaming on three successive days is essential. The process of intermittent steaming can therefore be superseded by the official process of Tyndallization. The ideal source of heat for Tyndallization is an electric sterilizer fitted with thermostatic control. An oven of this type with totally enclosed heating elements and with a temperature range of 60° C. to 160° C. is an acquisition to any dispensary. Statistics in regard to the decomposition of chemical substances on heating and the degree of safety in the filtration methods are sadly lacking. With the continued growth of hypodermic medication more facts will probably show an advance in the preparation of sterile solutions comparable with the advance shown in the 1932 (British) Pharmacopœia—*Pharm. Jour. and Pharm.*, March 25th.

COLOR TEST FOR ROTENONE.

Howard A. Jones and Charles M. Smith (*Ind. Eng. Chem., Analytical Edition*, 5 (1933), pages 75-76) described the following color reaction of the insecticide rotenone. The test will reveal the presence of as little as 0.1 mg. of rotenone. Mix 1 cc. of the acetone solution of rotenone with 1 cc. of dilute (1 to 1) nitric acid, and let stand 30 seconds. Then dilute with 8 or 9 cc. of water, and add 1 cc. of concentrated ammonia water. A blue color is obtained, almost identical with that yielded by bromothymol blue at pH 7.2. The insecticide deguelin, which, like rotenone, is of vegetable origin, also gives this reaction.—J. S. H.—*J. Franklin Inst.*

TABLETS IN THE NATIONAL FORMULARY VI.

The inclusion of a list of some fifty compressed and hypodermic tablets in the National Formulary VI was approved at a meeting of the Contact Committee of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association, which was held at the Hotel Washington, in New York on March 13th-14th. Fifteen representatives of twelve member firms, organizations and government bureaus were present.

The Contact Committee also adopted a resolution recommending to all member firms that, as rapidly as new labels and cartons for ampul packages be required, the following statement be made at a suitable place somewhere on or in the unit sales package. "Each ampul contains a sufficient amount to permit withdrawal and administration of . . . cc."

THE HOTEL DIEU DE BEAUNE.

The Hospital of Beaune, Burgundy, was founded in 1443 by one Nicolas Rolin and his wife, Guigone de Salins. In its early days syrups and herb concoctions for the patients were made locally; but, by an Act of 1484, it became necessary to go to an established apothecary for drugs. Gradually drugs and medicines became dearer, and the hospital was spending more on them than it could afford. An arrangement was therefore made with a trained apothecary, named Gremaud, that he should train two sisters as dispensers, and, later, that he should sell to the hospital the material necessary for its dispensary.

In 1501, according to a free translation from early French, all that had been necessary in the dispensary had been: "Twelve beautiful boxes of pewter to keep syrups and conserves, six little tubs full of distilled water, a hundred phials for waters, jars for conserves and honey and a little tub, some soap in another, three furnaces, mortars, round pots and pots with tails." The inventory of the material sold by Gremaud on March 22, 1789, for the sum of 1731 livres, 9 sols and 6 deniers, includes 120 pieces of old Nevers pottery (probably jars), mortars, scales, weights and counters. They may still be seen in the beautiful old dispensary which opens off the "Court of Honour" of the hospital.—From an article by E. Torrey in the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*.