

LINIMENTUM TIGLII AND TIGLII COMPOSITUM, N. F.

In my experience these have never been used, and have never been in my stock. The oil alone is seldom prescribed; occasionally the physician orders it diluted with olive oil as he desires.

The author also recommends the following formulas as yielding preparations which give good satisfaction:

ANALGESIC LIQUID BALM.

Methyl Salicylate	30	cc.
Menthol	8	grams
Saponin	1.20	grams
Hydrous Lanolin	30	grams
Water to make.....	120	cc.

Weigh the lanolin into mortar, dissolve the methyl salicylate, menthol and saponin successively together, triturate with the lanolin and add water gradually to complete an emulsion.

A solid form of the above for tubes can be made with the same ingredients, omitting the water, and substituting cold cream made with liquid paraffin.

UNIVERSITY RUB.

Methyl Salicylate	1.00	cc.
Spt. Camphor	20.00	cc.
Ext. Witch Hazel.....	25.00	cc.
Alcohol	50.00	cc.

A favorite with our local athletes.

BOSTON LINIMENT, OR VETERINARY LINIMENT.

Ess. Oil Mustard.....	3.00	cc.
Oil Turpentine	20.00	cc.
Castor Oil	10.00	cc.
Alcohol	67.00	cc.

Tr. Red Saunders to color.

SYRUP OF LACTUCARIUM.

L. E. SAYRE, LAWRENCE, KAN.

Inasmuch as this preparation nor the drug which is represented is not mentioned in the list of Useful Therapeutic Agents published by the American Medical Association, it would seem that the committee which has charge of the compilation of these Useful Remedies believes it unworthy of notice as a useful therapeutic agent.

Nevertheless, the drug itself has not become obsolete. Corresponding with some of the larger manufacturing houses, I have the following statements to make:

From one of the largest houses, we have the following:

"We submit below the amount of Lactucarium which we have purchased during the past few years:

1910—298 lbs.
1911—150 lbs.
1912— 47 lbs.
1913— 58 lbs. from January 1st to May 19th.

"Our sales for Fluidextract Lactucarium have been as follows:

1910—67 pints.
1911—59 pints.
1912—52 pints.

"Our sales for Syrup Lactucarium Concentrated have been as follows:

1910—222 pints.
1911—181 pints.
1912—247 pints.

"The balance of the Lactucarium which we purchased was used in other pharmaceutical preparations which we supply under our label, or a portion of the drug may have been used in some of the preparations prepared through our Private Formula Department for certain customers.

"There is no question whatever in our minds but that the Syrup Lactucarium is admirably adapted and oftentimes prescribed for infants whenever a hypnotic or anodyne is required. This product is also recommended by some physicians for use in the treatment of nervous insomnia of adults."

From the second house, the following is stated:

"Only three preparations are made by this establishment, the Fluidextract, the Syrup and the Tincture. The sale on all of these is quite limited which may be, in part, due to the excessively high price of the drug, but we remember that, even in the past when the drug was considerably cheaper, than it now is, the sale was also restricted."

It would seem from the above that lactucarium has a very limited sale but, in our experience, lactucarium never did have much popularity. This was due largely to its disagreeable characteristics.

Syrup of lactucarium was introduced into the Pharmacopoeia in 1860. The preparations then made were unsatisfactory. In 1870, the formula produced a turbid, unsightly preparation with a very disagreeable odor and taste. In 1880, the syrup was made from the fluidextract which was, like the others, unsatisfactory, the resinous principles being thrown out of solution in the syrup, forming a turbid-looking preparation. In 1890, the tincture of lactucarium was used from which the resin was precipitated and filtered out through the medium of precipitated calcium phosphate, and the syrup made from the filtered liquid. In the 1900 formula, we have a much improved formula. The resinous principles are extracted first from the drug by petroleum ether. From the drug thus deprived of resin, the tincture is made and the syrup is made from it. This preparation has been a difficult one for pharmacists to make satisfactorily and many suggestions for improvement have been made.

That made by Mr. George F. Beringer seems to be of special value, which is as follows:

Lactucarium	50 gm.
Glycerin	250 gm.
Sugar	600 gm.
Stronger Orange Flower Water, q. s.	
Distilled Water, q. s., to make.....	1000 cc.

Beat the lactucarium with about 400 gm. clean sand to a coarse powder and place in a percolator, shaking down evenly but not packing. Put on sufficient of a mixture of the glycerin, orange flower water and 300 cc. distilled water to saturate and leave a layer above. Cork the percolator and cover, let macerate for two days; then percolate slowly, using the remainder of the menstruum,

then distilled water until 400 cc. of distillate is obtained, in this dissolve the sugar, heat on bath if necessary, strain, add water until 100 cc. is obtained.

This makes a beautiful, brownish-colored, agreeable tasting syrup which, owing to the glycerin in it, will keep indefinitely. Glycerin acts as a preservative and also solvent. The orange flower gives the product an agreeable odor as well as taste.

Some two years ago, with the aid of one of the students in the laboratory, a series of all of the preparations of syrup of lactucarium was made and these preparations have been kept in one-half pint bottles up to the present time. Added to the list including that of Mr. Beringer's, was a preparation of our own make which differed from his by substituting for the orange flower water q. s. of oil of anise. Just enough of the oil is used to be perceptible to the taste and odor. This preparation has a very agreeable odor, taste and appearance, and we consider that anise is a very much superior aromatic to that of orange flower for this syrup. Mr. Beringer's preparation furnishes a product that is medicinally, and pharmaceutically, a better preparation than the present U. S. P. article, and I believe should be substituted for it. I firmly believe that syrup of lactucarium should be officially recognized but, if the formula, as recommended by Beringer, be adopted, there is no occasion for the tincture being continued as official. Mr. F. W. Nitardy, of Denver, whose knowledge of the demand and value of pharmaceutical preparations in the west is unquestioned, writes:

The Syrup of Lactucarium should not be deleted from the Pharmacopœia. Its use in our territory is quite limited. A gallon of the syrup lasts about a year. I believe, however, that the drug is of value and should not be omitted from the U. S. P. because it does not enjoy a wide use.

The amount of a drug or preparation prescribed seems a rather poor criterion of its value at any rate—for example, we use about fifty gallons of Compound Syrup of Sarsaparilla, U. S. P., to one gallon of Syrup of Lactucarium. No one can say, however, that as a therapeutic agent the former can be compared to the latter. We should much prefer seeing this polypharmic preparation relegated to the N. F. and the Syr. Lactucarium retained if it is deemed advisable to reduce the number of preparations now in the U. S. P.

ORIGIN OF STOVE-PIPE HATS AND TROUSERS.

Somewhere about 1753 a hatter, named John Hetherington, of London, made and wore the first tall hat, now known as the silk, full dress, plug, or stove-pipe hat. A horse saw him and ran away. The owner of the horse sued Hetherington, but lost his case, the judge doubtless holding that an Englishman has an inalienable right to dress as ugly as he can. One time there was a king who had a deformed knee; he abandoned the knickerbockers which revealed the weakness of the royal leg, and took to long trousers. Hetherington and the king have long since gone to their reward, but their ghosts still ride civilized man, one at one end, and one at the other, from Paris to Tokio; and Lord-a-mercy! we daren't even laugh at the spectacle!—*Frank Crane, The Atlantic.*