

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.*