

THE LINIMENTS OF THE U. S. P. AND THE NATIONAL
FORMULARY.

THOMAS LATHAM, NEW YORK.

The U. S. P. contains eight formulas for liniments, the N. F. an equal number. Though comparatively unimportant as medicinal agents, liniments are frequently dispensed and would long since have been discarded from works of authority were they considered by the medical profession to be entirely useless. I will not attempt a classification of liniments from the point of view of the physician, nevertheless the pharmacist must possess a certain knowledge of their effect when applied to the skin so as to avoid misadventure in their use.

LINIMENTUM AMMONIÆ, U. S. P.

Ammonia Water	350 cc.
Alcohol	50 cc.
Cotton Seed Oil.....	570 cc.
Oleic Acid	30 cc.

Suggested formula:

Ammonia Water	400 cc.
Liq. Paraffin Oil.....	550 cc.
Oleic Acid	50 cc.

The latter remains a constant emulsion, never congealing as when made with vegetable oils. The alcohol is not needed to maintain liquidity.

LINIMENTUM BELLADONNÆ, U. S. P.

Camphor	50 grams
Fluidextract Belladonna Root, to make.....	1000 cc.

Suggested formula:

Camphor	37.5 grams
Lin. Saponis	250 cc.
Fl. Ext. Bellad. Root, to make.....	1000 cc.

More lubricant than the U. S. P., therefore easier to apply, and the camphor is in better solution. This liniment is rarely used alone.

LINIMENTUM CALCIS, U. S. P.

The title of liniment scarcely describes this valuable compound, much used under the name of Carron Oil. The lime water should be of the best and placed in the bottle first. On adding the linseed oil in exactly equal volume emulsification takes place at once.

LINIMENTUM CAMPHORÆ, U. S. P.

Camphor, in coarse powder.....	200 grams
Cotton Seed Oil.....	800 grams

Improved by using yellow paraffin oil at one-third the price of cotton seed oil. There is no valid reason for retaining the cotton seed oil.

LINIMENTUM CHLOROFORMI, U. S. P.

Chloroformi	330 cc.
Soap Liniment	700 cc.

Too strong in chloroform and too expensive for general sale.

Suggested formula:

Chloroform	200 cc.
Methyl Salicylate	50 cc.
Paraffin Oil, colorless.....	750 cc.

May be colored if desired with soluble anilin green.

LINIMENTUM SAPONIS, U. S. P.

Soap, dried and granulated.....	60 grams
Camphor	45 grams
Oil Rosemary	10 cc.
Alcohol	725 cc.
Water to make.....	1000 cc.

The directions are to heat the soap on a water bath with the water until a clear gelatinous mass results. To this the alcohol is to be gradually added, having had the other ingredients previously dissolved in it.

Suggested formula: Dissolve the soap in fine powder in the alcohol containing the other ingredients. Any bottle of sufficient capacity may be used and the operation conducted cold and finished in an hour or two. Filtration concludes it.

LINIMENTUM SAPONIS MOLLIS, U. S. P.

Soft soap	650 grams
Oil of lavender flowers.....	20 cc.
Alcohol to make.....	1000 cc.

Amended by using the cheap methyl salicylate instead of the dear oil of lavender with better covering effect. No need to use imported green soap (which, by the way, is never green), we now having most excellent domestic made with linseed oil at one-fourth the price.

LINIMENTUM TEREBINTHINAE, U. S. P.

Rosin cerate	650 grams
Oil of Turpentine.....	350 grams

Dissolve together with gentle heat.

Suggested formula: Use petrolatum flavum at a much lower price, instead of the rosin cerate, the only purpose of which is to dilute the oil of turpentine.

LINIMENTUM ACONITI ET CHLOROFORMI, N. F.

Fld. Ext. Aconite.....	45 cc.
Alcohol	80 cc.
Chloroform	125 cc.
Soap Liniment	750 cc.

This excellent liniment can be improved by the addition of menthol, 20 grams, in which combination it is a great favorite with physicians.

LINIMENTUM AMMONII IODIDI, N. F.

Iodine	4 grams
Oil Rosemary	15 cc.
Oil Lavender.....	32 cc.
Ammonia water	110 cc.
Alcohol, to make.....	1000 cc.

Suggested formula:

Ammonium Iodide	30.00
Soap Liniment	1000.00

LINIMENTUM IODI, N. F.

Can be considered obsolete, as in more than forty years' practice I have never dispensed it or heard of its being dispensed.

LINIMENTUM OPII COMP., N. F.

Tr. Opium	100 cc.
Camphor	17.5 grams
Alcohol	250 cc.
Oil Peppermint	25 cc.
Ammonia water	375 cc.
Oil Turpentine, to make.....	1000 cc.

On account of its high price and the comparative uselessness of its expensive ingredients, tincture opium and oil peppermint, the following is recommended:

Suggested formula:

Tr. Opium	10 cc.
Tr. Arnica	90 cc.
Camphor	20 cc.
Alcohol	250 cc.
Menthol	2 grams
Linseed Oil	50 cc.
Ammonia Water	400 cc.
Saponin	2 grams
Oil of Turpentine, to make.....	1000 cc.

Add the saponin, menthol and camphor to the alcohol, then the linseed oil and ammonia water, the other ingredients following. A fairly perfect emulsion results.

LINIMENTUM SAPONATO—CAMPHORATUM, N. F.

This old composition is retained chiefly for historical interest and I cannot remember selling it for thirty years. Opodeldoc Liquid, i. e., Soap Liniment, has taken its place; however, it may be made readily with any of the popular brands of white laundry soap which have a mixed base of cotton seed and cocoanut oil and readily solidify or jelly on cooling.

LINIMENTUM TEREBINTHINAE ACETICUM, N. F.

Oil of Turpentine.....	100 cc.
Fresh egg	1
Oil Lemon	4 cc.
Acetic Acid	20 cc.
Rose Water	85 cc.

Suggested formula:

Oil of Turpentine.....	500 cc.
Water	500 cc.
Saponin	2 grams
Eggs	2
Ess. Lemon 5%.....	75 cc.
Acid Acet.....	90 cc.

This deservedly popular liniment has stood the test of about 150 years' use, and when properly made is an elegant emulsion. Made by the present N. F. formula, it thickens on standing, needs shaking and often is difficult to pour out of a narrow-necked bottle.

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.