

preparations as those in demand by the medical profession in this section of the country.

If a manufacturing pharmacist should confine his manufacture to the preparations now official, including the formulas proposed, he would have to close his business as soon as his cash on hand was exhausted.

LABORATORY OF THE MCPIKE DRUG CO., Kansas City, Mo.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FLUIDGLYCERATES
OF THE N. F.

ERNEST R. SMITH.

The fluidglycerates, as proposed by the committee on National Formulary constitute a class of preparations in which each cc. contains the active constituents in 1 gm. of drug. They are intended to be of the same strength as the fluidextracts.

The menstruum contains 50 percent by volume of glycerin and no alcohol. This class of preparations, consisting of about 86, was first experimented on by Geo. M. Beringer. Five of them are now suggested for inclusion in the forthcoming National Formulary.

The writer made and tested the different preparations as suggested in the "Journal of the A. Ph. A., Vol. 1, No. 3," using 125 gm. of drug for 125 cc. of the finished product.

In each case the drug was ground by hand and passed through a sieve corresponding to the number of powder required.

Fluidglycerate of Glycyrrhiza. A number 20 powder was used and an alkaline menstruum. The writer experienced some difficulty with this preparation. The formula suggests that it be "*packed very lightly.*" The drug being in a coarse powder the menstruum has a tendency to run through unevenly when packed as directed, but when packed a little more firmly the writer had no difficulty.

Using the prescribed amount of menstruum there was not enough to saturate the drug and leave a stratum above, and the chloroform water was used to make up the deficiency.

The finished product is a first class preparation and the taste is superior to the fluidextract. The peculiar sweetening properties of glycerin seem to do away with the slight acrid taste which the fluidextract has.

It is of interest to note that in a preparation made 2 years ago, only a slight precipitate has formed, hence the keeping qualities are good.

Fluidglycerate of Krameria. No difficulty was experienced with this preparation and the finished product has every appearance of a good preparation.

Fluidglycerate of Cascara Sagrada. The writer met with the same difficulty as in the fluidglycerate of licorice, viz.: the amount of menstruum was not sufficient to saturate the drug and leave a stratum above.

The finished product seems to be of good quality, and the drug is entirely exhausted of its desirable constituents.

Fluidglycerate of Cascara Sagrada Aromatic. In this preparation there was insufficient amount of menstruum to saturate and leave a stratum above.

The finished product is an excellent preparation and the bitterness which Cascara possesses is entirely disguised.

Fluidglycerate of Rhubarb. The finished product is a thick, clear, brownish black liquid, free from sediment, and has the appearance of an excellent preparation.

The marc contained none of the active constituents of the drug, which shows that the drug was entirely exhausted.

In conclusion, it is the writer's opinion that the fluidglycerates, as a class, possess many advantages over the fluidextracts. They do away with alcohol which is expensive, and in some states, hard to obtain. Their keeping qualities are excellent. Also, alcohol is frequently therapeutically contraindicated, and these preparations give the physician a concentrated infusion.

It remains to be determined, whether the glycerol-water menstruum and chloroform water, dissolves any of the undesirable constituents from the drug.

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THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC.

The education of the public in matters pharmaceutical is being attempted in various (American) states, with the object of putting the druggist right in the eyes of the public. During the past decade certain lay newspapers have carried on campaigns against the proprietary medicine business, with the admitted object of destroying it. Recently there appeared in the "Ladies' Home Journal" an article entitled, "The Meanest Business in the World—Cheating the Sick," wherein remedies for women's ailments, soothing syrups, and headache and cough preparations were condemned as a class. Unfortunately, the writer made his attack too inclusive, stating that such medicines (excluding the first named) "all depend for their effect upon alcohol, and one or all of the stupefying drugs—opium, morphine, or chloroform." The writer went on to say that, "used to excess, they kill outright; used even in moderation, they gradually become a necessity to the child's system, and before the parents realize the danger they have on their hands a victim of the drug-habit." Such misstatements are freely copied by the newspapers throughout the country, with the result that an unmerited slur is cast upon the drug business. In order to combat this influence, the Wisconsin State Pharmaceutical Association has formed a publicity bureau, charged with the duty of disseminating among the country papers short articles that will set the druggist right in the public eye. The time has come when the public must be told that the maker of ready-made medicines is not necessarily a faker and charlatan.—*The Chemist and Druggist* (London).