

Section on Pharmacopoeias and Formularies

Papers Presented at the Sixty-First Annual Convention

CONCERNING SOME OF THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.

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When the formulas proposed for inclusion in the National Formulary were first made public the writer prepared a number of samples, of most of the elixirs, the two spirits, antiseptic solution of pepsin, aromatic castor oil, four tinctures liquid petroxolin, iodine petroxolin, one fluidextract and the fluidglycerates.

These preparations have been kept on a shelf in a room having a north exposure and at ordinary room temperature. Over a year has passed since they were made.

Compound spirit of cardamom made May 15, 1912, has darkened slightly and contains a slight precipitate. The taste suggests pimenta.

The writer made a sample of spirit using oil of pimenta, and from it an elixir which are superior to the spirit and elixir made as directed in the proposed formulas.

The compound spirit of vanillin made May 15, 1912, has darkened in color to a light brown; there is no precipitate.

Compound elixir of almond made May 15, 1912, has darkened slightly. The odor is that of orange flower water—"heavy" and unpleasant, the taste is at first pleasant but weak—afterwards that of the orange flower water and vanillin combination.

Aqueous elixir of licorice made May 15, 1912, has kept perfectly. We would suggest that the fluidextract of licorice of the formula be replaced by the fluidglycerate to be in keeping with the title, which suggests no alcohol.

Red elixir does not contain enough color and it is suggested that the amount of cudbear be doubled, so that the elixir may be diluted, as in prescription work, and the color still be noticeable.

Compound elixir of cardamom (made May 15, 1912) is cloudy, with precipitate. The taste is not unpleasant, but is too weak. The remarks above under spirit of cardamom will apply to this elixir.

Compound elixir of vanillin (made May 15, 1912) has darkened to a caramel brown. The taste is not pleasant. We consider this the poorest elixir of any proposed.

Elixir of three bromides has kept well but compound elixir of almonds is not a good vehicle for the bromides; sweetened water would do as well.

Compound elixir of sodium salicylate contains a precipitate and the taste is objectionable. It should not be included as proposed in the new formulary.

We made no samples of the formates elixirs; we do not believe there is demand enough for them to justify their inclusion in the National Formulary.

Antiseptic solution of pepsin (made Jan. 25, 1912) contains a slight precipitate, taste strongly acid—the odor indicates that the pepsin is old. The name "Physol" suggests a nostrum. Reject antiseptic solution of pepsin.

Liquor carbonis detergens should be admitted—but the directions for making it should be changed. The coal tar should be macerated in tincture of quillaja.

The writer has made several gallons of this preparation and has observed that coal tar is not soluble in the alcohol and forms a coating over the quillaja, so that the alcohol cannot act upon the latter.

Aromatic castor oil is a good preparation and is in demand; a slight increase in the oil of cinnamon is advisable. We suggest also that the kind of oil be definitely prescribed, as there is quite a difference between the flavor of oil of Ceylon cinnamon and oil of cassia, the latter being the most commonly stocked by druggists.

Syrup of poppy could well be replaced with a syrup of morphine hydrochloride. We would then have something definite, the elixir of morphine hydrochloride seems to be a preparation of value and is quite common in many drug stores today.

The tinctures proposed, excepting two, viz.: cactus grandiflorus and saw-palmetto and santal, should be included.

We find conflicting reports regarding the efficacy of tincture of cactus grandiflorus and think elixir saw-palmetto and santal would be a more useful preparation than the tincture.

The spray solutions are good combinations, if they would be used, but we notice most physicians employ their own formulas when prescribing sprays.

Salicylated mixture of iron, and compound gargle of guaiaic, may have a local use somewhere, but they do not appeal to us as being of sufficient importance to justify their inclusion.

The borax honeys we pass without comment other than to say that our grandmothers had many such remedies.

The fluidextracts should be included. We made but one of this class, that of baptisia; it is a very satisfactory preparation.

The fluidglycerates should be increased in number. We made samples of all of the ones proposed, and they are satisfactory except that of cascara, which has a slight precipitate. Fluidglycerate of licorice we have had for three years and consider it the best form of licorice in fluid state; its uses may be many and the taste is much like that of ammoniated glycyrrhizin.

We predict that the fluidglycerates will become popular, excepting perhaps krameria, which is little used in the middle west.

Liquid petroxolin is an improvement on the one of the present formulary. The iodine petroxolin separated for us after two weeks standing.

We did not make the granulated effervescent salts, but they seem to be somewhat out of line with those in common demand.

It is a disappointment that the majority of the proposed formulæ are not such

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.

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

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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.