

tum Tannin, it being much more agreeable and pleasant to the patient, and is just as efficient as the latter preparation.

While all the manufacturers who market a fluid form of red gum have it listed in their price lists as a fluidextract, some have an asterisk placed beside the word and, on referring to the footnote, one finds these words:—"those fluids which do not represent the crude drug, *minim for grain*"; which is a tacit confession that it is impossible to make a hundred *per cent.* solution of this drug.

From a study of the literature relating to this drug,—and this literature, by the way, is scant,—one is informed that it is soluble in cold water to the extent of 80 to 90 *per cent.* This is wrong. It is extremely doubtful if as much as 30 *per cent.* is soluble in cold or even in boiling water. My experience leads me to believe that less than 20 *per cent.* of the drug is soluble in boiling water, and that it refuses to remain in solution without the addition of varying amounts of glycerin; without this addition gelatinization always results. My experience also showed that the use of alcohol in effecting solution is unnecessary or is at least less effective than a menstruum consisting of water and glycerin. Heat must be used. I found that after shaking twenty parts of the powdered drug with eighty parts of cold water, at intervals, for twelve hours, two parts of drug remained in solution. By heating in a flask on a water bath for fifteen minutes and frequently shaking, about 10 *per cent.* is dissolved. Unfortunately after a few days a jelly-like mass resulted. This, however, as mentioned above, can readily be overcome, or rather avoided, by the addition of glycerin, or better still, by heating on a water-bath with equal parts of glycerin and water.

After more or less experimentation, which I need not recount here, I evolved the following formula and method of procedure which seems to meet all the requirements of those physicians who wish to use Red Gum as a local application:—

Red Gum, powdered.....	200 gm.
Glycerin .....	250 cc.
Water, a sufficient quantity to make.....	1000 cc.

Mix the glycerin with five hundred cubic centimeters of water, and triturate the powdered red gum with sufficient of the mixture to produce a smooth paste. Transfer this to a flask by the aid of the remainder of the mixture of glycerin and water and heat on a water-bath for one hour; filter through purified cotton, keeping the funnel well covered. Finally, pass sufficient water through the filter to obtain one thousand cubic centimeters of fluid.

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#### TURKISH SUPPLY OF GUM TRAGACANTH.

Owing to the scarcity of labor due to military levies the gathering of most of this year's yield of Asia Minor gum tragacanth was prevented. The local stock remaining from last year does not exceed 30 tons. There has been little demand this year from European buyers, but some small shipments have been made to the United States. Prices are abnormally low, but increased freight rates bring them to almost the usual level. Good natural gum sells for 38 cents per pound c. i. f. New York. The white variety is slightly dearer.—*Consular Report.*