V.

℞	Deutoiodureti hydrargyri	0.2
	Potassii iodid	30.0
	Tincturae Iodi	0.4
	Syrupi Ferri Iodidi	45.0
	Aqua q. s.	120.0

This prescription which is red on first mixing becomes decolorized on standing. The diluted hypophosphorous acid of the syrupus ferri iodidi reacts with the free iodine of the tincture, forming hydriodic acid which is colorless. To have the free iodine which is wanted present in this prescription, therefore the syrup ferrous iodide (1890) which does not contain hyphosphorous acid, should be used. This forms a clear, red mixture, which remains so on standing.

N. B.—The physician informed the patient not to accept the prescription unless it was of red color.

VI.

℞	Liq. Potass Arsenitis	2 dr.
	Syr. Ferr. Iodidi, q. s.	2 oz.

Liq. Potass Arsenitis contains potass. carbonate. The potassium bicarbonate on boiling being converted into carbonate. This,—if the syrup does not contain diluted hypophosphorous acid, as the syrup of U. S. P. 1890,—will react with the ferrous iodide, forming a precipitate of ferrous carbonate, which is converted into ferric hydroxide. To prevent this precipitation, use a syrup containing accurate amount of diluted hypophosphorous acid, or neutralize the Fowler's Solution with diluted hypophosphorous acid before mixing, and you get a perfectly clear mixture.

VII.

℞	Olei Cadini	20.0 cc.
	Aqua. Destil, q. s. ad.	120.0 cc.

Oleum Cadinii could not be emulsified by the ordinary emulsifying agents, neither could a suspension of the oil in water be obtained. The best way to prepare this is to emulsify the oil with the yolk of an egg, then adding a few drops of Fl. Ext. Quillaja (Soap Bark). This helps saponification.

RED GUM.

JOHN K. THUM.

Eucalyptus rostrata, sometimes referred to as Australian Kino, and more popularly known by the name "Red Gum," is to be found on the market, pharmaceutically, in the form of troches and in a fluid form, misleadingly termed by the manufacturers, a fluidextract.

Like Kino, U. S. P., it contains considerable tannin which makes it extremely valuable as an astringent. The so-called fluidextract has obtained some vogue among throat specialists as a local application in place of the well-known Glyceri-

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 glycerine; 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.

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.*