

Manufacturing houses supplying biological products are very liberal with explanatory literature, follow-up letters and post cards for physicians, which advertise both the products and the store at which they may be had.

If it is true that the use of biological remedies has to some extent curtailed prescription writing, that is all the more reason why the retail druggist should show his physician friends that he is just as able to intelligently fill orders for these products as he is to fill prescriptions, and that he not only has the latest information on how to keep biological products in condition for instant demand, but that he puts this information to practical use for the benefit of the physician and his patients.

### CHOLERA MIXTURE; AN IMPROVED FORMULA.\*

BY OTTO RAUBENHEIMER, PHAR. D.

The sale of diarrhœa mixtures or so-called "cholera drops" has become a necessity, especially during the summer months. For this reason the National Formulary, one of our legal standards according to the Pure Food and Drugs Act and the State Laws, provides five different formulas, two of which, namely Squibb's Diarrhœa Mixture and Sun Cholera Mixture, will be retained in the 4th edition of the N. F., now in print and official from September 1, 1916.

The "Sun Mixture" is without doubt the most important, and its history is given in another paper. However, owing to its high opium content, namely 20 volume percent of tincture of opium, it cannot be sold to the public without a physician's prescription, according to the Federal as well as the State Laws.

What is the pharmacist to do under these restrictions? Various suggestions have been made, so as to sell cholera mixture to the suffering public.

1. To reduce the quantity of tincture of opium, so that one fluidounce contains *not more than 2 grains of opium or one-fourth of a grain of morphine.*

2. To replace the 20 percent of tincture of opium by such astringents as tincture of cinnamon or kino or gambir.

3. My own suggestion is to modify the formula in such a way as to contain 50 percent of paregoric. Here is my formula:

#### IMPROVED SUN CHOLERA MIXTURE.

Spirit of Peppermint .....	2 volumes
Spirit of Camphor .....	1 volume
Tincture of Capsicum .....	1 volume
Tincture of Rhubarb .....	1 volume
Camph. Tincture of Opium .....	5 volumes

Dose: 1 to 2 teaspoonfuls in a wineglass of water as required.

Why do I advocate the use of paregoric? Because from personal experience I am convinced of its beneficial use in cramps, pains and diarrhœa. Elixir Paregoricum has most certainly stood the test of time, both as a household remedy, as well as a pharmacopœial preparation, having been originated about 1700 by Dr. Le Mort, Professor Chemistry at the University of Leyden, Holland.

These "Improved Cholera Drops" contain merely a trace of opium, namely 0.2 percent, or 0.02 percent of anhydrous morphine. It seems hardly possible that the "opium habit" could be contracted from this mixture, as its taste is not any too inviting.

As another argument in favor of this preparation, I beg to state that I have sold these cholera drops for over a year with perfect satisfaction to my customers.

\* Read before annual meeting of New York Pharmaceutical Association.