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STANDARD CANNABIS.*

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The United States Pharmacopoeia IX requires that a standard Cannabis be used when testing the physiological activity of this drug or its preparations. This standard Cannabis is used to compare the degree of muscular incoördination produced by doses of various sizes of the preparation being tested. It is stated that this standard Cannabis shall be a "Fluidextract of Cannabis or an extract which has been carefully prepared and suitably preserved." "A standard fluidextract will produce incoördination when administered to dogs in the dose of 0.03 mil for each kilogramme body weight of dog."

It has long been known that dogs differ markedly in showing muscular incoördination when fed preparations of Cannabis in the same relative dose—hence a standard based upon the power of a preparation of Cannabis to produce incoördination in doses of a definite size in proportion to body weight is erroneous.

Furthermore, the standard that may be selected by one manufacturer may be quite different to that selected by another.

In consideration of the above conditions, I suggested in a paper read before the American Pharmaceutical Association last year and published in the JOURNAL for 1916, page 1194, that The Committee on Physiological Testing of the American Pharmaceutical Association prepare a composite standard fluidextract. Each member of this Committee was asked for a quart sample of Fluidextract of Cannabis which he considered of standard physiological activity. Equal parts of the Fluidextracts of Cannabis marked as follows were mixed:

Parke, Davis and Co. (East Indian), No. 2146027.

H. K. Mulford & Co., No. 22164-810168.

Eli Lilly and Co. (Indian), No. 125755-509472.

Smith, Kline and French Co. (Indian), No. 3017218.

After allowing to stand in a tightly stoppered bottle for three days the mixed fluidextracts were filtered rapidly through paper and put in four-ounce amber bottles. Two of these bottles have been sent to each member of the Committee on Physiological Testing of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and it is hoped that not only the manufacturers represented will use this sample for standard, but that this material will be used generally for a standard in testing preparations of Cannabis. A sufficient supply of this standard will be kept so that portions will be available for all who may desire a specimen for physiological standardization. These bottles will be kept at room temperature, as there is no evidence that Fluidextract of Cannabis deteriorates on keeping in tightly stoppered small bottles.

LABORATORY,
SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH CO.

* Read before the Scientific Section, A. Ph. A., Indianapolis meeting, 1917.