

# THE U. S. P. IX. SHOULD IT CONTAIN AN ASSAY FOR THE WATER CONTENT OF LIQUOR CRESOLIS COMPOSITUS?

BY W. W. DAVIES.

Liquor Cresolis Compositus is one of the pharmacopoeial preparations which is peculiarly situated in that two separate divisions of the Department of Agriculture have jurisdiction over its entrance into interstate commerce. The Bureau of Chemistry sees that the product complies with all the requirements of the Federal Food and Drugs Act of 1906, while the Insecticide and Fungicide Board enforces the Insecticide Act of 1910 under which it comes as a germicide.

In the U. S. P. IX there are no tests given pertaining to this particular preparation, although, in order that the statement on its label will comply with the Insecticide Act of 1910, it is necessary that one determine the water content or inert matter.

Since this is required to satisfy the law, is it not desirable that some official method for such an assay be recognized in the U. S. P. IX, the book which is to contain the official formulas or tests applicable to the articles mentioned therein?

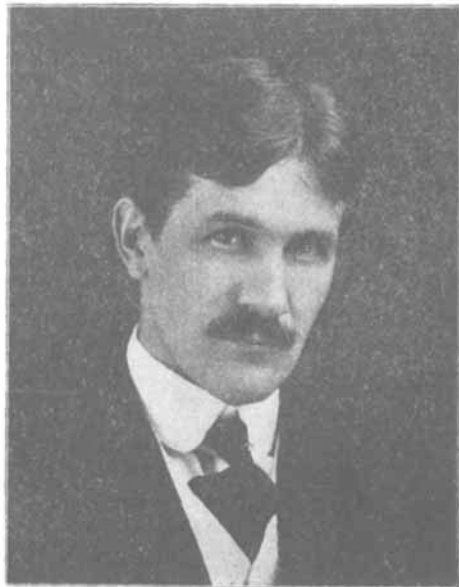
The following test is used in our analytical department to obtain the water content of Compound Solution of Cresol. No claim of originality, however, is made for the method given here and it is merely appended to the foregoing remarks in order to place it before those who are not already familiar with it.

Assay: Measure 100 mls of the Compound Solution of Cresol and 100 mls of Xylol into a dry distilling flask. Rotate carefully in order to mix the two liquids and distil through a dry condenser. Collect about 150 mls, or until the distillate is coming over clear, in a dry graduated cylinder. The number of mls of water, the lower layer, gives the percent of water present.

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