

necessary also in making the preparation in large quantities to sprinkle the drug with a little chloroform when packing and to use a little more each day.

The percolate should be evaporated *in vacuo* or on a water bath to 76 pints, cooled, 20 pints of alcohol added and allowed to stand 24-48 hours, and filtered. Product 96 pints.

An assay of this fluidextract as to the glycyrrhizin content and total extractive gives results equal to those of a fluidextract made by the official process.

A sample is submitted of a fluidextract made May 26, 1919, and filtered on the day made to determine how much precipitation would occur under the most favorable circumstances.

One item of interest is that the fluidextract filters very rapidly and leaves very little residue on the filter.

To a sample of the same lot of fluidextract was added a few drops of ammonia water. This caused an increased precipitation without corresponding advantage and was discarded.

It must be borne in mind that in making this preparation in quantities of 1000 mls the physical conditions will be somewhat different as, for instance, the drug will become quite cold in macerating overnight, and this small amount will not keep as hot as a larger volume will, so a larger amount of percolate will have to be run out.

The initial easy filtration and the subsequent freedom from precipitation recommend this process and product as all that can be desired.

LABORATORIES OF
E. R. SQUIBB & SONS.

ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION.

MR. RAUBENHEIMER: It has always been my opinion that in order to extract the glycyrrhizic acid from the licorice, we use ammonia water. From my own experience, I find the addition of a small amount of ammonia water to any licorice preparation always improves that preparation; I have no trouble whatsoever with any precipitation.

MR. HEARN:¹ The method I use, and it has been very satisfactory, is the percolation of the drug with thirty percent alcohol and then a consequent driving off of the alcohol, bringing up the liquor left in the still to the volume required. Percolation with 30 percent alcohol extracts the licorice, and leaves the inert material in the drug without any precipitation. Frothing is avoided, as there will be no frothing until all the alcohol has been distilled off.

DREUW'S PASTE OR OINTMENT OR VIENNA PASTE.*

BY OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

The announcement of the paper "Ointment Difficulties," by William Gray, for the second session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, prompts me to write this short paper on the day previous, namely, on Wednesday, August 27, 1919. The subject herewith presented is of great importance to the practical pharmacist, as it presents three different kinds of "Ointment Difficulties," *i. e.*, 1, as to proper formula; 2, as to method of dispensing; 3, as to confusion of names.

¹ This is the name reported by the Secretary of the Section and also by the reporter.

* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., New York meeting, 1919.

CORRECT FORMULA.

This ointment has been originated by Prof. Dreuw, the successor of the celebrated Berlin dermatologist, Dr. Lassar. Many formulas have been published, some entirely different from the original. A Formula Book published by a pharmaceutical journal gives a formula under the title *Dreuw's Paste* containing salicylic acid, pyrogallol, purified wood tar, zinc oxide, soft soap and anhydrous wool fat. Only lately an American drug journal copied a formula from the *Journal Suisse de Pharmacie* as "Unguentum Dreuw" containing yellow petrolatum. These two examples (and no doubt there are many more) prove again that a reliable book of formulas is needed, badly needed, such as proposed in the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book.

The following formula was given to me by a physician, who took a postgraduate course of dermatology under Professor Dreuw:

Salicylic Acid.....	10 Gm.
Oil of Birch Tar, Chrysarobin, of each.....	20 Gm.
Wool Fat, Soft Soap, of each.....	25 Gm.

To make 100 Gm.

Dreuw's Ointment is extensively used by dermatologists, quite especially in the treatment of psoriasis.

DISPENSING.

This ointment is a "sticker," and many a portion have I thrown away and other portions, unfit to use on the human skin, have I applied to a "mangy" dog, and with success. The principal trouble or incompatibility exists in the action of the salicylic acid on the soft soap. This conclusion was arrived at from the fact that when the salicylic acid was omitted or, on the other hand, when the soft soap was left out, no trouble was experienced in preparing a smooth paste. After numerous experiments I found the following method the best to produce a nice homogeneous soft ointment. It consists of three steps: A. Incorporate the finely powdered salicylic acid with the oil of birch tar and then gradually mix in the chrysarobin. B. Mix together the wool fat and soft soap. C. Mix B and A and dispense in a jar or wide mouth bottle.

CONFUSION OF NAME.

Dreuw's Ointment, for some reason unknown, very likely to coin a euphonious name, easy to remember, was christened "Vienna Paste" by the physicians in a large dermatologic hospital in New York City. From here, the "would-be" center of medical science, this name has spread or will spread throughout the United States. However, it should be remembered that "Vienna Paste" is a well-known synonym for Potassa cum Calce, official in N. F. This is a mixture of equal parts of potassium hydroxide and calcium oxide and is a strong caustic which, of course, should not be dispensed when Dreuw's Ointment is ordered under the name of "Vienna Paste." The results would be almost as disastrous as when "Roach Sault" is dispensed when "Rochelle Salt" is wanted. After all, let carefulness be the chief motto of the dispensing pharmacist!
