

contrast to the high position accorded to pharmacy is the comparatively low one held by dentists in the French Army. The pharmacist is the equal of his medical brother-in-arms in all respects, but the dentist is not an officer at all, but a *Sous-officier* like the *Médecins* and *Pharmaciens Auxiliaires*. The dentists have low rank in the French Army, but there are plenty of them. In the British Army dentists are few and far between. There is only one to each casualty clearing station, and only one or two with the stationary and general hospitals. In the French Army each division has three, each corps has an additional one, and there is a liberal supply to the hospitals on the lines of communication and at the base.

In the foregoing sketch the high position held by the pharmaceutical profession in the French Service has been established. Pharmacy has been described as the handmaiden of medicine. In the British Army she is little more than a drudge, but in the Army of the great French Republic she is accepted as a sister, enjoying equal rights and privileges.

QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF MENTHOL IN ALCOHOLIC SOLUTION.*

BY JOSEPH L. MAYER.

Having occasion recently to make many quantitative determinations of menthol in alcoholic solution, and there being no method available, I adopted and have very successfully employed the following:

Into an accurately weighed Petri dish (a large watch glass will serve equally well) accurately measure 5 Cc. of the sample, then place in a desiccator over sulphuric acid and allow to remain over one night, after which weigh. The increase in weight is due to the menthol, the purity of which can easily be proved by making a melting point determination and other physical and chemical tests which may be needed.

A trial solution made to contain 14.6950 grammes of menthol with alcohol sufficient to make 50 Cc. when analyzed by the above method showed the presence of 14.460 grammes per 50 Cc., a shortage of 1.59% which is practically negligible in work of this kind, where the authorities who collect the samples are disposed to allow a variation of at least five percent and in some cases even more.

The method is so accurate, simple and easily applied that it should commend itself to pharmacists and others who have need to use it.

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