

4. *Circular of Bureau of Standards*, No. 62, page 6.
5. "American Soaps," Gathmann, page 182.
6. *Circular of Bureau of Standards*, No. 62, page 6.
7. "Modern Soaps, Candles and Glycerin," Lamborn, page 356.
8. "American Soaps," Gathmann, page 303.
9. "Chemical Technology and Analysis of Oils, Fats and Waxes," Lewkowitsch, Vol. II, page 367.
10. *Circular of the Bureau of Standards*, No. 62, page 7.
11. "American Soaps," Gathmann, page 208.
12. "Modern Soaps, Candles and Glycerin," Lamborn, page 318.
13. "American Soaps," Gathmann, page 57.
14. *Circular of Bureau of Standards*, No. 62, page 10.
15. "American Soaps," Gathmann, page 26.

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### SUGGESTIONS TO THE U. S. P. REVISION COMMITTEE.\*

BY WILLIAM GRAY.

#### SAPO MOLLIS.

Soft Soap should be made from corn oil because all large soap-makers use this product. Experience has taught them that soap made from corn oil has a better appearance; is more stable than that made from cottonseed oil. The latter requires more alkali for saponification, becomes rancid quickly, if neutral, also discolors readily; so why not use the article professional soap-makers find to be the best, as most druggists do not make the soap? They either buy the corn oil product, or pay a premium for the cottonseed oil soap—a product, manufacturers inform me, they do not care to make, for reasons stated above. I might add, if there is a desire for economy, the best way would be to leave it open to use any vegetable oil, for example, peanut, soy bean, linseed, etc. There is a very great fluctuation in price of oils throughout the year; this would allow the soap-maker to use the cheapest at time of manufacture, thereby reducing the cost to purchaser.

#### LIQUOR CRESOLIS COMPOSITUS.

The Compound Solution of Cresol formula should be simplified so that the average pharmacist will take the trouble to make this preparation. This could be accomplished by using equal parts by weight of cresol and soft soap. The pharmacist would be surer of perfect saponification than is the case with the present formula, because both oil and alkali will vary; the alkali in anhydrous properties, requiring titration or the use of hydrometer; the oil in saponification value, due to age or source. Would it not be a great advantage to the pharmacist to use a previously made soap?

#### UNGUENTUM ZINCI OXIDI.

The present formula for Zinc Oxide Ointment is not generally desired, so far as I have been able to observe, because often it will be found rancid. Generally speaking, zinc oxide ointment is used as a protective—why not use petrolatum as the base? It is common practice, so let us make it official:

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\* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., City of Washington meeting, 1920.

## DEXTRROSE (GLUCOSE).

Glucose, of the Pharmacopoeia, is to my mind simply corn syrup—a mixture of dextrose 35 percent, dextrin 45 percent and water 20 percent. I understand glucose, grape sugar and dextrose are synonymous and, therefore, mean just sugar without dextrin or water. C. P. dextrose is described as anhydrous and white in color. The commercial variety, sometimes called cerelese, is about 96 percent anhydrous. Both are used extensively in hospitals for enemata and feeding purposes, as well as for intravenous and hypodermatic use. Dextrose is being used increasingly for all conditions of acidosis, and for several functional tests. It is particularly indicated in diabetic coma. I would like to see both C. P. and commercial in the next Pharmacopoeia; it will land there eventually, so why not now?

## WHISKY, BRANDY, GIN AND RUM.

Whisky, Brandy, Gin and Rum are *narcotic* stimulants, and as such should be handled, if at all, by pharmacists in the same manner as other narcotics, and not by irresponsible persons, as was the case before the Prohibition Act went into effect. Now is our chance to keep these drugs where they belong. I can see no valid reason why they should not be incorporated in the Pharmacopoeia. Some will question their medicinal value, but is that not the case with about 75 percent of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations?—take tincture of gelsemium as an example. I understand it is very rarely prescribed in the North, while in the South it is very commonly used, if not indispensable. I am not trying to defend strong alcoholic liquors, personally I have no use for them, but that has nothing to do with the case. There are plenty of physicians who believe in these narcotic stimulants. If we are in the prescription business, it is up to us to supply physicians' orders without any ifs or ands about it. There can be no odium attached to this, as it will be only prescription business, not at all like a bar where patrons drink on the premises. Government restrictions, which are on a par with those governing the sale of morphine, cocaine, etc., take care of that. Over twelve hundred druggists in Chicago have taken out licenses. Many claim that prohibitionists want the pharmacist to handle this business. So let us have whisky, brandy, gin and rum standardized as drugs—by so doing we may possibly forestall their return to the beverage class.

## LIQUOR CALCIS CHLORINATAE.

A solution containing 15 percent chlorinated lime would be a valuable addition to the Pharmacopoeia for this reason: it could be used as a basis for making either eusol or Dakin's solution. By standardizing this solution to 4.5 percent available chlorine, one would simply dilute 1 in 10 to make the above solutions, using boric acid in the case of eusol, sodium carbonate and bicarbonate of, for Dakin's; in the latter case it would of course be necessary to decant or filter. As to the stability of a solution of chlorinated lime, I will refer you to a report of the Research Committee of the Department of Pathology, University of Edinburgh, *British Medical Journal*, September 22, 1917, page 386, wherein it is stated that a sample of Liquor Calcis Chlorinatae B. P. which assayed when prepared in April 1915 2.92 per cent chlorine was kept in a clear glass-stoppered bottle in a cupboard in the laboratory for over two years. Later, on the last day of July 1917, this solu-

tion assayed 2.62 percent chlorine. From the above information this solution is evidently stable enough to be constituted a concentrated solution from which to make the other hypochlorite solutions.

### SOME PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS.\*

BY H. M. FASER.

The first preparation I wish to discuss is the much used, and one time official, Elixir of Iron, Quinine and Strychnine Phosphates. Just why a formula is not given in the National Formulary for this Elixir I have never been able to understand. I am aware of the fact that the formula of the U. S. P. VIII was not satisfactory and deleted on that account, but at the same time manufacturers of pharmaceuticals make this elixir and sell it to the drug trade in large quantities. If manufacturers can devise a formula that will stand up under ordinary conditions, surely some member of the American Pharmaceutical Association can devise a formula suitable for admission to the National Formulary. In the section of the country from which I come large quantities of this elixir are used and I have made it for a long time. The formula which I use is one that has been published many times, and I think came originally from Mr. Beringer. I am quite sure that most of you have seen this formula, but for fear some of you have not, I give it here:

#### ELIXIR OF IRON, QUININE AND STRYCHNINE PHOSPHATES.<sup>1</sup>

Soluble Ferric Phosphate.....	17.50
Potassium Citrate.....	5.00
Quinine.....	8.75
Strychnine.....	0.275
Phosphoric Acid.....	2.00
Alcohol.....	200.00
Glycerin.....	200.00
Compound Spirit Orange.....	10.00
Purified Talc.....	30.00
Distilled Water to make.....	1000.00

Dissolve the quinine and the strychnine in the alcohol and 100 mls of water to which has been added the phosphoric acid. Add to this the compound spirit of orange. Dissolve the soluble ferric phosphate and the potassium citrate in 100 mls of warm water and add the glycerin, then the solution of the alkaloids and sufficient water to make the product measure 1000 mls. Mix the talc with the liquid and filter, returning the first portion until a clear liquid is obtained. Lastly wash the filter with a mixture of one volume of alcohol and four volumes of water until the filtered product measures 1000 mls.

It seems to me that Elixir of Iron, Quinine and Strychnine Phosphates should be in the National Formulary, and I do not believe improvement on this formula can be made.

Elixir of Lactated Pepsin is largely prescribed, and is bought by many in

\* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., City of Washington meeting, 1920.

<sup>1</sup> A year-old sample was shown which had been kept in a dark place, but in a flint glass bottle. The author stated the elixir should be kept in an amber glass container and dispensed in an amber bottle.