

The matter of standardizing the coloring agents of the Formulary, tinctures of cudbear and caramel, has received the very earnest attention of a number of the ablest members on the Committee and it seems quite likely that in the fourth edition, we shall have the means of ending the trouble now so persistent in the use of these coloring media, the inability to get shades in preparations to agree at different times. Perhaps the greatest innovation in the way of new preparations is the introduction of Fluidglycerates. These are of the same strength of the fluidextracts but contain no alcohol, hence mix clear with aqueous solutions. Another matter that has somewhat perplexed the Committee, is, how far shall it be influenced by manufacturers, as to the admission or exclusion of formulas. Another of the added features of the book which is taking a great deal of time, is the preparation of the standards and descriptions of the articles which enter the preparations but for which no standards have before been offered. These will approximate 500 and will probably be grouped in Part II of the book. Up to the present time no one has ventured a definite statement, as to when we might expect to have the new book for use, but it does seem now that we may reasonably expect it before the coming meeting of the Association in Denver. In closing, permit me to say, that from the matter contained in the bulletins thus far circulated, I truly believe the retail pharmacist will find in the "N. F. IV" the most perfect and valuable book ever offered to American pharmacists.

THE RICHARDSON BILL.*

F. W. NITARDY.

The December issue of the *Western Druggist* contains an editorial entitled, "A Bill to Kill All Ready-Made Remedies." The article in question regards the Richardson Bill as a "Doctor's bill designed to destroy practically every proprietary medicine; to prohibit any druggist putting up a line of his own remedies, and to compel every person to be held up for a doctor's fee every time even the simplest remedy is needed."

Copies of the editorial in question must have been sent broadcast over the country. Several Denver dailies mentioned it and one printed the entire article under big headlines "Druggists Protest," or something similar.

That the article referred to does not express the sentiment of the retail druggist is very clear to any one familiar with matters pharmaceutical.

Both the *JOURNAL* of the A. Ph. A. and the *N. A. R. D. Notes* speak of the Richardson bill in quite different terms, and these journals are representative, published by and in the interest of druggists, and cannot be bought to advocate or denounce a certain measure as may suit the buyer.

In the issue of February 8 of the *N. A. R. D. Notes*, the editor speaks as follows:

"Notes and the *N. A. R. D.* are not in favor of the passage of the Richardson bill in its present form.

"Notes and the *N. A. R. D.* are in favor of the principle of the Richardson bill."

*Read before the Denver Branch.

The following resolutions passed at the Niagara Falls convention, are quoted as the basis of the stand of the N. A. R. D. on the Food and Drug Act Amendment question :

“Resolved, That this association favors an amendment to the Pure Food and Drugs Act that will protect the public against unwarranted claims of nostrums and will provide that the manufacturing of medicinal preparations be in the hands of licensed pharmacists.

“Resolved, That this association favors interstate anti-narcotic legislation that will prohibit all illegitimate traffic in narcotics and habit forming drugs, and confine their sale to proper channels and uses to strictly medicinal purposes ; and

“WHEREAS, Section 7 of Regulation 7 of the Food and Drugs Act permits the sale of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations of various strengths, providing such strength is designated on the label ; and

“WHEREAS, Such provision causes much confusion in the enforcement of pharmacy laws, providing for the use of U. S. P. and N. F. names on drugs of standard strength alone ; therefore, be it

“Resolved, That this section should be repealed or so amended as to provide that all drugs sold to the public under their official names or recognized synonyms, shall be of standard strength.”

The stand taken by the editor of “Notes” is very well taken indeed. He also states in his editorial that : “We have it from inside sources that the bill in its present form is merely tentative ; that its sponsor freely acknowledges that some of its provisions are in conflict with each other.”

It seems to be the intention of the bill to confine the manufacture of medicinal products to pharmacists and physicians, to which I can see no reasonable objection, and for the druggists this should be a good thing. It enlarges the scope of the Food and Drugs Act by including toilet preparations and tobacco, also a good provision.

Like our present law it permits the deviation from the official standard in official preparations, which I believe is wrong. At least this point should be well considered before the amendment takes its final form.

Some time ago I ordered a pound of Hypophosphorous acid U. S. P. from a local jobber, and received an article labeled as follows :

“HYPOPHOSPHOROUS ACID 50 PER CENT.

“This article yields a precipitate with ammonia water and the filtrate a turbidity with barium chloride test solution. Guaranteed under the Food and Drugs Act, etc.”

To one not well posted on the chemistry of the reactions involved, such a label has little meaning. He would not know if the note indicated that the article was of official quality or not of official quality without consulting the U. S. P. tests for the purity of Hypophosphorous acid. Still the label is legal. This illustrates the farce of the system of labeling articles not up to the official standard.

The list of interdicted drugs in the Richardson bill is rather large. It is probably intended in this bill as in the present law that an article is to be considered mis-branded if any of the articles named are present and not mentioned on the label, however, the bill is not clear on this provision. It seems that some of the articles included in this list may well be omitted.

The bill should be studied by every druggist and discussed at association meet-

ings and the results published. Some amendment along this line is necessary and will no doubt be made, but if we do not do our duty and take proper interest in these matters, amendments may be passed by Congress that will prove burdensome to us.

HINTS ON PROPOSED N. F. FORMULÆ.*

LOUIS SAALBACH, PHAR. D.

The formula proposed for *Mistura Ferri Salicylatis* is as follows:

MISTURA FERRI SALICYLATIS.

Sodium salicylate	125.0 Gm.
Tinct. of ferric chloride.....	125.0 Cc.
Ammonium carbonate	6.5 Gm.
Citric acid	14.0 Gm.
Oil of betula.....	4.0 Cc.
Glycerin	175.0 Cc.
Distilled water enough to make.....	1000.0 Cc.

Dissolve the citric acid in 200 Cc. of distilled water, add the ammonium carbonate and then dissolve the sodium salicylate in this solution. Add the tincture of ferric chloride, glycerin and oil of betula; mix, and then add enough distilled water to make 1000 Cc. and filter. When prepared according to the above formula and instructions, a heavy precipitate forms. This consists of ferric salicylate and salicylic acid. The ammonium carbonate and citric acid are used in this formula to make ammonium citrate, in a solution of which, ferric salicylate is soluble.

There is insufficient ammonium carbonate present to convert all of the citric acid to citrate; furthermore, the salicylic acid also requires an alkali to keep it in solution.

Good results may be obtained by increasing the quantity of ammonium carbonate to 25 grammes and mix as follows:

Dissolve the citric acid in 300 Cc. of distilled water, add the ammonium carbonate, and when solution has been effected add the glycerin, then the tincture of ferric chloride, in which the oil of betula has previously been dissolved, and finally enough distilled water to make the mixture measure 1000 Cc.

When prepared in this manner a clear dark red solution is produced, which does not require filtration.

PETROXOLINUM LIQUIDUM.

Liquid petrolatum.....	50 Gm.
Oleic acid.....	28 Gm.
Oil of lavender flowers.....	2 Gm.
Stronger ammonia water.....	5 Gm.
Alcohol	15 Gm.

Mix the liquid petrolatum and oleic acid in a flask, add the alcohol and then the stronger ammonia water, and warm the mixture on a water bath with frequent

*Presented to the Pittsburgh Branch.