

sanitation should be equal to your accuracy in dispensing. That no compulsory sanitary code has ever been enforced affecting pharmacists seems to me to have been the result of oversight. In my humble opinion there should be a set of rules adopted by the Board of Pharmacy covering just such points as I have laid before you, and enforced as are the other laws. But, inasmuch as these do not exist as yet and the matter is left entirely to the discretion of each individual pharmacist, as a matter of fair play to yourself, employees and especially to the public, a reformation of present lax sanitary observances is by all means necessary. We, as professional men, dealing with the sick and those who are at our mercy, must needs follow in the naturally rapid strides made by "up-to-date" scientists and carry out the simple rules of sanitation and sterilization, and not until then do we fulfil our duty to the best of our ability, nor can we conscientiously state that we have given the public the best that is in us and the best for their own good and welfare.

A HOMEMADE STILL FOR RECOVERY OF ALCOHOL.

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The following simple and inexpensive piece of apparatus has been found efficient for the recovery of alcohol from the weak percolates obtained in the manufacture of fluidextracts, and from similar liquids.

The advantages of the still are its cheapness, and the fact that the liquid can be evaporated directly from a porcelain evaporating dish, thus avoiding the use of a flask.

The apparatus is composed of two enameled iron pans, one constituting the still body, and the other of slightly smaller diameter, so that when the latter is inverted its rim will fit neatly into the larger pan about one-third of the distance from the bottom of the latter. (Fig. 1.)

Through the bottom of the smaller pan, which constitutes the dome of the still, is punched a hole about 2.5 cm. in diameter into which a perforated cork is tightly inserted, and made vapor-tight by a luting of plaster of paris. Through the cork passes a curved glass tube which is connected with a Liebig or other condenser.

A second similar opening serves for the addition of fresh liquid, or for the insertion of a thermometer.

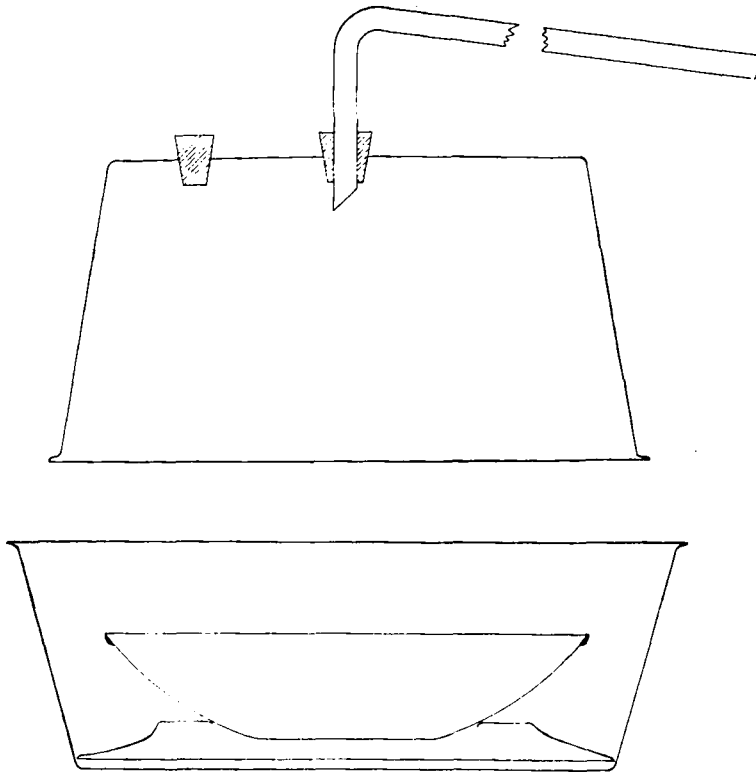
As a support for the evaporating dish there is used an ordinary pieplate in the bottom of which is cut a circular opening of a diameter sufficient to hold the evaporating dish, so that the bottom of the latter will be elevated about 1 to 2 cm. above the bottom of the still.

The evaporating dish and contents having been placed in position, the dome is placed over it and water poured into the lower dish until the level reaches above the margin of the dome, the water acting as a bath and also as a seal to prevent the escape of vapor.

Instead of water, glycerin, petrolatum or other liquid may be used, and for the recovery of alcoholic distillates is to be preferred.

If the vapor pressure tends to lift the dome from its position, it can be held in place by weights or by being wired down.

The cost of an apparatus of size sufficient to take a porcelain evaporating dish holding one liter should not exceed 25 to 30 cents.



A somewhat more efficient apparatus can be made by an average tinsmith as follows:

The bottom pan, or what corresponds to the body of the still, is made of copper or heavily tinned iron, and has soldered to its outer rim a gutter into which glycerin or other liquid can be placed as a seal, the edge of the dome resting in this gutter when the apparatus is set up.

If a piece of thick, soft twine, or candle wicking is laid in the gutter before the dome is placed in position the joint between the upper and lower halves of the still is made more nearly vapor-tight.

The dome can be held fast to the body either by wire or by stout twine passing over hook-like flanges attached to the dome and body respectively.