

It further has the advantage that if kept in amber containers, in a cool, dark place, it has remarkable keeping qualities, far in excess of the present official solution. Sample herewith submitted was made November 5, 1919, assayed 2.59% and when set aside the bottle was but two-thirds full. May 20, 1920, assayed 2.37, and May 17, 1921, 2.179 percent of sodium hypochlorite and shows, in 2½ years, about 16% loss of sodium hypochlorite.

With reference to the method of assay let me point out that it is much more simple than the present official method for the reason that the present method directs taking about a definite volume and accurately weighing it; the average pharmacist is not equipped with an analytical balance and is unable to make such a weighing; if he uses an ordinary prescription balance the result will be no more accurate, and possibly not as much so, than by using an accurate chemical pipette; further, one of the principles of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia—solids by weight and liquids by measure—leads me to make the suggestion that the formula should make one thousand cubic centimeters instead of one thousand grams, and the assay should likewise represent so many grams in so much liquid by volume.

The above is respectfully submitted as a suggestion to the Committee of Revision, U. S. Pharmacopoeia.

ODDS AND ENDS.*

BY W. WILSON MCNEARY.¹

In making solution of mercuric chloride in any strength, it will be found that sodium chloride assists as a solvent quite as well as ammonium chloride, and is much cheaper. Five pounds of mercuric chloride will dissolve in about a gallon of water with the aid of five pounds sodium chloride.

In drying hypodermic tablets that tend to discolor in light when moist, such as morphine and eserine salts, place them in a cardboard box previously dried in a hot air oven while the box is still hot, and cover with lid; they dry quickly and remain white. To prevent hypodermic tablets from sticking to the moulds, fan the plate with a piece of cardboard for a few moments before pressing out; they drop off without trouble.

A prominent skin specialist desired, for an affection covering the entire body, a non-greasy application to carry curative agents, such as resorcin, phenol and boric acid, which could be easily applied and easily washed off in the bath. The following was supplied and answered the purpose:

Powdered tragacanth, 1 ounce
Alcohol, sufficient to moisten
Glycerine, 1 ounce
Water, q. s. to make one pint

So many pharmacists continue to use the dirty paste pot and brush when a very handy outfit can be made by fastening a piece of cheesecloth, with a rubber band, over the lid of a jar filled with mucilage, and inverting same in an ointment pot. It is always ready to use. Discard the filthy paste pot and brush.

* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing A. Ph. A., New Orleans meeting, 1921.

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A clerk spilled some glucose on the cellar floor and did not clean it up; next morning four mice were found asleep in it. About as cheap and harmless (except to mice) as anything else. Remarks unnecessary.

Try making medicated waters by agitation, using half the amount of volatile oils specified by the Pharmacopoeia.

Dakin's Solution.—Instead of making the finished product daily, prepare a concentrated solution, say about five times the usual strength. Correct the alkalinity with 10% HCl. Keep in dark bottle, in a cool place, well stoppered, and dilute to required strength by titration as needed. You will be surprised to learn how the concentrated solution keeps. In hospitals the concentrated solution is very useful for cleaning bed pans and as a general deodorant and disinfectant.

To deodorize Tincture Valerian or Asafetida use bitter almond water or a very small amount of benzaldehyde. The effect is surprising.

To prevent frothing in mixtures containing fluidextract of cascara sagrada and sodium bicarbonate, add a few drops of sodium hydroxide solution to the fluidextract.

To produce a smooth scarlet-red ointment, rub the scarlet-red with a few drops of mineral oil before incorporating with the base. The same method is applicable to mercuraphen.

When ampuls of neoarsphenamine in oil are prepared the oil should be sterilized and allowed to cool, and the neoarsphenamine incorporated in a sterile mortar and introduced into the ampuls. Avoid heating neoarsphenamine as a poisonous compound results. These ampuls should be prepared immediately before using, as the arsphenamine forms a cake on standing, and cannot be reincorporated by shaking.

Caroid decomposes sodium cacodylate. They should be dispensed separately.

PHARMACEUTICAL EVENTS IN 1821.

BY OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

In conformity with my former contributions I have classified these Pharmaceutical Events of a Century Ago as follows:

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOUNDED.

The first College of Pharmacy in the United States, namely, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, was established and a systematic course of lectures was given. This most important pharmaceutical event was duly celebrated by a Centennial in February and June 1921.

The University of Virginia was also founded, and the 100th anniversary was celebrated from May 31 to June 3, 1921.

The Kings County Medical Society in Brooklyn, N. Y., was established. McGill College and University founded at Montreal.

The University of Pennsylvania confers—only for a short time—the degree of Master of Pharmacy—the direct cause of the foundation of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

Liebig goes to Paris to study under Gay-Lussac and work on Fulminates. Schönbein, of nitrocellulose and ozone fame, enters the University of Tübingen. Heinrich Rose graduates at the University of Kiel.