

Spirit of Orange so that it will mix clear with syrup, alcohol and water in the proportions of Aromatic Elixir thus making the preparation of this product extremely easy and simple.

The following formulas are submitted:

SOLUBLE COMPOUND SPIRIT OF ORANGE.¹

	A.	B.	C.
Oil of Orange, terpeneless.	6.00 cc	96 minims	1 fluidounce
Oil of Lemon, terpeneless.	3.00 cc	48 minims	1/2 fluidounce
Anethol.	4.00 cc	64 minims	320 minims
Oil of Coriander.	12.00 cc	192 minims	2 fluidounces
Alcohol			
Distilled Water, each, a sufficient quantity			
Purified Talc.	15.00 Gm.	1/2 ounce	2 1/2 ounces
To make.	1000.00 cc	32 fluidounces	10 pints

Dissolve the oils and the anethol in the alcohol ("A" = 540 cc, "B" = 18 fluidounces, "C" = 4 1/2 pints) and add sufficient distilled water to make the required quantity. Add the purified talc and shake well for several minutes. Set aside for several days, shaking it frequently. Filter through paper in a well-covered funnel, and wash the filter with sufficient diluted alcohol to obtain the required yield.

AROMATIC ELIXIR.

Soluble Compound Spirit of Orange.	30 cc	1 fluidounce
Alcohol.	240 cc	8 fluidounces
Syrup.	375 cc	12 fluidounces
Distilled Water, a sufficient quantity		
To make	1000 cc	32 fluidounces

Mix the Soluble Compound Spirit of Orange with the alcohol, add the syrup and then sufficient distilled water to make the required yield.

In practice these formulas have been found to give an Aromatic Elixir checking up so closely in flavor and strength with the present U. S. P. product as to be an acceptable replacement. The value of the formulas to the retail pharmacist will be quickly apparent.

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SUPERIOR OINTMENT OF AMMONIATED MERCURY BY THE WET PROCESS.*

BY ERNEST R. JONES.

The "wet process" of preparing ointments is not original with the writer, for many manufacturers have been preparing Ointment of Yellow Oxide of Mercury in this manner for some years. The only wonder is that it has not been extended to more ointments.

The "wet process" is applicable to any ointment when the insoluble solid medication can be prepared by precipitation. It differs from the usual method of preparing ointments by incorporation, in that the precipitate is never allowed to become dry, thereby eliminating the gritty particles which come from drying of

¹ Anethol, the active principle of oil of anise, is preferred in this formula, and slightly less of it and oil of coriander are purposely used with an idea of improving the flavor.

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

the moist precipitate and which are so difficult to finely pulverize when preparing the ointment.

The process used for preparing the ammoniated mercury is that of the U. S. P. VIII with modifications which produce a finer precipitate. A calculated amount of mercuric chloride is used so as to produce one-tenth as much ammoniated mercury as you are to prepare of ointment. Instead of using hydrous wool fat in the ointment, we use the anhydrous and so drain the ammoniated mercury that the moisture retained equals the amount that would have been in the hydrous wool fat. The resulting ointment is beautiful, the ammoniated mercury being so fine that some have accused us of not putting any in the ointment. Of course, they were looking for the usual gritty particles.

The formula is as follows:

OINTMENT OF AMMONIATED MERCURY.

Mercuric Chloride.	108 Gm.
Ammonia Water, Stronger	60 cc
Wool Fat, Anhydrous.	280 Gm.
White Petrolatum.	500 Gm.
Distilled Water, a sufficient quantity	
	To make 1000 Gm.

Dissolve the mercuric chloride in 2000 cc of hot distilled water, cool and filter and add 2000 cc of distilled water. Slowly and while stirring continuously, pour this solution into the stronger ammonia water previously diluted with 2000 cc of distilled water. Allow the precipitate to settle and decant the supernatant liquid as closely as possible. Add 5000 cc of distilled water to the precipitate, stir well, allow to settle and again decant the supernatant liquid. Repeat this process twice more or until the decanted liquid no longer contains ammonia. Transfer the precipitate to a suction filter and drain till the precipitate cracks. Remove and transfer to a tared mortar or suitable dish and add sufficient distilled water to make the moist precipitate weigh 220 Gm. Incorporate it with the wool fat which has been previously melted and triturate till a smooth homogeneous ointment is obtained; then incorporate the white petrolatum.

Comments.—Although the formula specifies distilled water as a precaution, I found tap-water equally satisfactory and would say that if your tap-water is reasonably pure, the use of distilled water is an unnecessary expense.

The strength of the reacting solutions is more dilute than the U. S. P. VIII process and produces an impalpable powder.

The addition of a little ammonia water to the wash-water is unnecessary and would prove very irritating if any were left in the moist precipitate.

The bulk of the precipitate is so great that it will not settle enough to allow the required amount of water to be decanted. I tried decanting as closely as possible and then transferring to a tared porcelain dish and evaporating on a water-bath to proper weight. It was not successful for the precipitate dried hard and gritty on the sides of the dish and became slightly yellow in color. The first trouble might be overcome by careful attention while evaporating and the second by keeping a trace of ammonia present. But the most satisfactory of all is the suction filter. If the precipitate is drained until it cracks, it can be removed from the paper in lumps and does not adhere to it at all.

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