

PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS

PROPOSED FOR "UNOFFICIAL FORMULAS, A. PH. A."

The formulas heretofore published will be found in Volume I, JOURNAL A. PH. A., pp. 169, 366, 505, 637, 760 and 1307; Volume V, pp. 309, 422, 529, 631, 748, 862, 991 (see also p. 1129), 1126, 1265 and 1397; Volume VI, pp. 79, 194, 298, 393, 486, 563, 643, 729 and 823. Volume X, pp. 292, 382, 468, 534, 628. See also Volume XI, p. 551.

For list of committee members and committees see April issue, 1921, p. 292. Suggestions for formulas, and comments on those published are invited. They may be sent to a member of the Committee or to Chairman J. Leon Lascoff, 1223 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

SULPHURATED POTASSA.*

BY RALPH R. FORAN.¹

This compound is official mainly because of its use in the preparation of "Lotio Alba," or "White Lotion." Although dermatologists may prescribe varying proportions of the ingredients, the following formula is the one published by the Committee on the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book:²

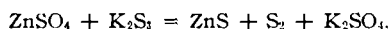
Lotio Alba White Lotion

Zinc Sulphate..... 5 Gm.
Sulphurated Potassa..... 5 Gm.
Water, or Rose Water, a sufficient quantity
to make 125 cc.

Dissolve each chemical in 60 cc of water, or rose water. Filter each solution and mix by slowly pouring the sulphurated potassa solution into the zinc sulphate solution, then add sufficient water, or rose water, to make 125 cc.

The U. S. P. describes sulphurated potassa as "a mixture composed chiefly of potassium polysulphides and potassium thiosulphate and containing an amount of sulphides corresponding to not less than 12.8 percent of Sulphur. Preserve it in well closed containers. It is in the form of irregular pieces, liver-brown when freshly made, changing to a greenish yellow and finally to gray through absorption of moisture, oxygen and carbon dioxide from the air."

It is apparent from this description that sulphurated potassa is a very uncertain mixture, and one which may not serve its purpose satisfactorily unless reasonably fresh. In the preparation of the lotion, using fresh sulphurated potassa, the following equation may represent the reaction which takes place:



This sulphur in a finely divided state is the effect desired by the prescriber. Using sulphurated potassa which has decomposed, this result will be only partially attained, if at all, for as its decomposition and oxidation proceeds, the quantity of sulphidic sulphur decreases.

The pharmacist who is desirous of dispensing what is wanted has two alternatives. He can either buy the sulphurated potassa in small quantities and "preserve it properly" or he can make it freshly as needed. Buying in small lots may not solve the difficulty, for much of it is already partially decomposed when purchased. It may be made as directed in N. F. III, by gradually heating a mixture of 2 parts of dried potassium carbonate and 1 part of sublimed sulphur in a covered crucible, not over half filled, until the mass ceases to foam and is perfectly fused. Pour on a cold slab and when cool break into pieces and keep in a well-stoppered bottle. This small scale manufacturing, while not difficult, requires a certain technique. Properly it should be done under a flue or in the open air, unless the fusion is controlled carefully as to the temperature, when it may be carried out in the store without noticeable vitiation of the air.

In order to avoid the use of sulphurated potassa of uncertain age and quality and also to eliminate making it freshly by fusion, the following procedure is suggested as giving an end product possessing those characteristics which are found in "White Lotion" made from fresh sulphurated potassa.

A. Sublimed Sulphur..... 3 Gm.
Solution of Potassium Hydroxide U. S. P..... 50 cc.

To the sulphur contained in a mortar, add the KOH solution in small quantities and triturate until a paste is formed. Rinse into a 150 cc Erlenmeyer flask with the rest of the KOH solution, finishing the rinsing with about 10 cc of water. Heat until the sulphur is dissolved

* Read before Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, 1922.

¹ Technical Chemistry Laboratory, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, June 19, 1922.

² JOURNAL A. PH. A., Vol. 3, P. 692.

and the solution is of a deep red-brown color, avoiding unnecessary and long boiling. Filter at once.

B. Zinc sulphate U. S. P. 5 Gm.
Water, or Rose water. 60 cc
Dissolve and filter if necessary.

C. Mix solutions A and B, and add sufficient water or rose water to make 125 cc.

The lotion thus made will equal, in physical appearance, any preparation made from freshly prepared sulphurated potassa, and will agree

closely in the kind and quantity of constituents. It will certainly be more presentable and efficient than any made from sulphurated potassa of doubtful polysulphide strength.

Chairman J. Leon Lascoff submits the following formula of

Salicylated White Lotion
Acid Salicylic
Sulphurated Potassa
Zinc Sulphate
Acacia, powdered, of each 4 Gm.
Rose Water to make 120 cc.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL BRANCHES

"All papers presented to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art. III.

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the Editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be typewritten, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter. To maintain its activity and representation each Branch should see that at least three of its meetings during the year are reported in the JOURNAL.

CINCINNATI.

The Cincinnati Branch of the A. Ph. A. elected the following officers for the ensuing year: *President*, Fred W. Kisker; *1st Vice-President*, Caswell A. Mayo; *2nd Vice-President*, Fred J. Minsterketeer; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Miss Bertha Ott. E. V. Kyser, of Covington, Ky., was elected to fill a vacancy on the executive committee, and C. P. T. Fennel was elected council representative to the parent association.

The annual outing of the Cincinnati Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was held at Riverside park, Milford, on Wednesday, July 12th. There were the usual games, dancing, cards, etc. One of the amusing features of the day was a baseball game between teams one of which was composed of women and the other of men. It is reported that the women made 18 home runs and won the game. Louis Werner, D. E. Murphy, Charles G. Merrell and Caswell A. Mayo constituted the Committee on Entertainment.

INDIANAPOLIS.

Although the extreme heat interfered some in the attendance, a very enjoyable and enthusiastic meeting of the Indianapolis Branch was held July 27th at the Chamber of Commerce.

Prof. Edward H. Niles of the Indianapolis College of Pharmacy was the first speaker

and had for his subject: "The Fallacy of Drug Store Experience as a legal requirement for Registration." The discussion following indicated an unusual interest, and while at the beginning quite a few differed from the speaker, at the conclusion of the discussion all agreed with him and the Secretary was instructed to send the paper, as completed, to the JOURNAL.

The second speaker was Irvan E. Taylor of Broadripple, on "Ointment Potassium Iodide, past, present and future." This was thoroughly discussed and the Secretary requested to also send this paper to the JOURNAL.

The Executive Committee reported that a very good program had been outlined for several months ahead, every number being interesting and a variety of subjects. As the Association has many active members outside of Indianapolis who have asked for a meeting in other cities, the Secretary was requested to confer with these members and, if possible, arrange for some meetings outside of Indianapolis.

The best wishes of the Branch were extended Mr. A. D. Thorburn of the Executive Committee, who expects to spend several months abroad. Mr. Thorburn promised to report his observations in the Pharmaceutical Line of foreign countries on his return.

ERNST STAHLHUTH, *Secretary*.