

from the formula, (2) that the acid in the glycerite might well be omitted for the same reason, and (3) that it be recommended that at least the third class of preparations be prepared extemporaneously only.

DISCUSSION:

C. M. Snow: We have carried out some work on pepsin preparations, using saccharin and glycerin in place of sugar and alcohol. These preparations deteriorated more readily than our present official ones. The low alcohol content elixirs are suitable for pepsin preparations, though it is desirable that they be freshly made. In the light of these findings it would seem that the logical procedure would be to reduce the acid in the glycerite pepsin and prepare the pepsin elixirs extemporaneously from the glycerite. Incidentally it may be mentioned that investigations in our laboratories here demonstrate beyond any doubt that the Compound Elixir of Almond as a vehicle for the pepsin elixirs should replace Aromatic Elixir since the pepsin elixirs at the present time contain about 17½ per cent. of alcohol, while the same elixirs with Compound Elixir of Almond as a vehicle would reduce the alcohol content to 3½ per cent. without in any way tending to make the product more subject to fermentive changes.

FERMENTATION EXPERIMENTS ON ELIXIRS OF LOW ALCOHOLIC CONTENT.*

BY E. N. GATHERCOAL AND VIVIAN J. STUHLIK.

A number of the low alcoholic galenicals were inoculated with the mold *Penicillium glaucum*, the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Bacillus subtilis* and kept in the incubator at 30° C. for seven days with the following results.

	Alcohol content.	Mold.	Yeast.	Bacillus.
Compound Elixir of Almond.....	5.0%	—	—	—
Elixir of Pepsin (proposed for N. F. V).....	3.5%	+	—	—
Elixir of Pepsin N. F.....	17.5%	+	—	—
Aqueous Elixir of Glycyrrhiza N. F.....	3.5%	+	—	—
Compound Elixir of Cardamom N. F.....	10.0%	+	—	—
Beef Bouillon.....	None	+	+	+
Glucose Solution.....	None	+	+	+
Litmus Milk.....	None	+	+	+

Similar inoculations of each preparation with each fungus were kept at room temperature, approximately 20° C., for ten days with exactly similar results except that the mold growths were not quite so conspicuous.

DOSE STANDARDIZATION OF ELIXIRS.†

BY BERNARD FANTUS, M.D.

As a glance at the accompanying table will show, no uniform policy prevails at present in regard to the dosage of medicaments in the N. F. elixirs. In most cases the dose is a good deal smaller than the U. S. P. average dose; in one case it is equal (Elixir Cascara Sagrada) and in a few cases larger than the U. S. P. dose, *e. g.*, twice the U. S. P. dose in the case of elixir of phosphorus. The dose of the finished medicated elixir varies from a teaspoonful to two teaspoonfuls and even a tablespoonful. One may well wonder how such confusion originated. The

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