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"TURKISH" RHUBARB.*

BY R. A. KONNERTH AND R. E. SCHOETZOW.

Our interest was recently aroused by a sample of Rhubarb offered on the market under the title of "Turkish Rhubarb."

On superficial examination, this lot appeared exceptionally good in that it was well peeled, of good bright color and free from dark centers. The odor was much less smoky than that of the Chinese Drug.

Prior to 1910 "Turkish" Rhubarb was the name given to a Chinese Rhubarb exported to Russia and from there to Turkey. The apparent revival of this custom appeared doubtful.

One of the outstanding differences from the Chinese drug was the complete

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absence of the stellate fibro-vascular bundles ("Star Spots") so common and characteristic in Chinese Rhubarb.

The plano-convex segments averaged from 8-10 cm. in length and 2-4 cm. in diameter. Most of the segments showed remnants of a dark brown spongy pith. In other respects the sections were similar to Chinese Rhubarb. The texture was not as solid and heavy, and the powder much more bulky and pink in color than that obtained from the Chinese variety.

It was observed that in experimental samples of fluidextract prepared from "Turkish" Rhubarb a considerable deposit of a yellowish crystalline nature settled to the bottom on standing. A portion of the crystalline residue from the fluidextract was identified as Rhaponticin by the solubility in alkalis and dilute alcohol. A solution of these crystals in dilute alcohol was shaken with ether and allowed to stand. Acicular crystals separated.

The U. S. P. test for Rhapontic Rhubarb was run on this lot alongside of a sample of authentic Rhapontic Rhubarb. No crystallization occurred while under observation for 72 hours.

Due to incomplete directions and the possibility of interpreting the U. S. P. Rhapontic test instructions in more than one way, the technic described in the German Pharmacopœia was followed with positive results. The crystalline precipitate from the "Turkish" Rhubarb was similar to that from true Rhapontic Rhubarb.

The German method of testing for Rhapontic Rhubarb was also applied to true Chinese Rhubarb with negative results.

We wish to point out the possibility of accepting a lot of Rhapontic Rhubarb for the official variety on the strength of negative results in the U. S. P. X test for Rhapontic Rhubarb. Modifications of this U. S. P. test are recommended and outlined in the foregoing paper.

Our experiments have conclusively proven that the so-called "Turkish" Rhubarb was none other than our old friend *Rhaponticum*.

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THE INFLUENCE OF LIGHT UPON THE HYDROGEN-ION CONCENTRATION OF CERTAIN GALENICAL PREPARATIONS.*

BY JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR., AND C. JELLEFF CARR.

INTRODUCTION.

Working as a member of the committee on the actinic value of glass and of the committee on hydrogen-ion concentration of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, one of the authors correlated certain data inter-related between the two committees which were thought to be of sufficient importance to warrant its publication in THIS JOURNAL. The pharmaceutical preparations selected were:

- (1) Elixir Pepsin and Rennin Comp., N. F.
- (2) Tincture of Digitalis, U. S. P.

* Scientific Section A. PH. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.