

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Compiled by A. G. DuMez, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy.

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APPARATUS AND MANIPULATIONS.

Anon.

Tube filling machine for manufacturing pharmacists

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A POSSIBLE MORPHINE SUBSTITUTE.

In a preliminary note on the therapeutic administration of benzene-sulphonate of oxydimorphine A. Leulier and B. Pommé (*Bull. acad. méd.*, through *B. M. J.*) remark that although oxydimorphine is very different from morphine pharmacologically, there is a close resemblance in chemical constitution. Kohn-Abrest states that it possesses none of the narcotic effects of morphine, but will produce clinical features characteristically absent in morphine addicts, namely, cough, vomiting, excessive intestinal peristalsis and flatulence, blood-streaked diarrhea, a rapid pulse and vascular dilation. The salt is crystalline and forms a neutral solution in water (solubility 1 in 33), which can be sterilized at 100° C., and is painless on hypodermic injection. A dose of 0.1 gram was administered to each of two guinea-pigs, the one by the mouth, and the other hypodermically; six hours later the slightly somnolent animals were killed, and the alkaloid, which had by

then disappeared from the blood, was recovered from the liver. A morphine addict, taking 0.05 Gm. per day, had 0.04 Gm. of this dose replaced by an equivalent amount of oxydimorphine. In a month it was possible to keep him on 0.005 Gm. of oxydimorphine alone. The patient had the same feeling of euphoria as with morphine, but complained of peripheral vaso-dilatation and, during the first two or three days, had two or three actions daily instead of his usual one. A patient with severe Pott's disease of the cervical vertebrae, causing root-pains in the upper limbs, obtained relief from pain for several hours with the injection of 1 ccm. of a 1 per cent solution of this drug. The authors conclude from these early experiments that oxydimorphine possesses the anæsthetic and euphoric qualities of morphine, at any rate, when administered in small doses. The euphoric action, indeed, raises the question whether, owing to the risk of a habit being formed, restrictions should not be placed on its sale.