

Section on Pharmacopœias and Formularies

Papers Presented at the Sixty-First Annual Convention

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIA.

As is well known the present state of revision of the United States Pharmacopœia makes it unprofitable for the members of this committee to devote much time and attention to the old book which will be so soon replaced by the ninth revision. The majority of the members of this committee are on other important committees whose work will be completed with the publication of the Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary. After these works have come into use this committee as a whole will be in a position to begin collecting the data for which it was organized.

Early in the year the chairman suggested that he desired the members of this committee to report either to him or to the Association direct through the Section on Pharmacopœias and Formularies, such observations and suggestions concerning the U. S. P., as might be of value to the Committee of Revision. In response to this there are several papers, and some suggestions which follow in this report.

SOLUTION OF IRON AND AMMONIUM ACETATE.

This preparation when made according to the following formula is permanent, keeping for more than a year without change. The essential change is the increase of glycerin from 120 to 200 cc.

Tincture of Ferric Chloride.....	40 cc.
Diluted Acetic Acid.....	40 cc.
Solution of Ammonium Acetate.....	400 cc.
Aromatic Elixir.....	200 cc.
Glycerin	200 cc.
Water, a sufficient quantity to make.....	1000 cc.

—DUNNING.

SYRUP OF HYPOPHOSPHITES.

The sugar should be sufficient to saturate the solution, or 810 gm. This produces a syrup which is entirely permanent and, contrary to the opinion of others, in my experience the use of enough sugar for saturation does not salt out the hypophosphite salts.—DUNNING.

CALCIUM HYPOPHOSPHITE—SODIUM HYPOPHOSPHITE.

Copper sulphate T. S. is directed to be added and upon gentle heating a precipitate is supposed to form. This does not happen, except on long boiling, unless previously acidified.—DUNNING.

BORIC ACID.

The accuracy of the statement that the addition of hydrochloric acid decreases its solubility in water is questioned.—DUNNING.

SOLUTION OF SODIUM PHOSPHATE, COMPOUND.

It is suggested that 200 gm. of citric acid be used and that the solution of sodium phosphate be produced by heating. This greatly facilitates solution and in no way injures the preparation.—DUNNING.

POTASSIUM AND SODIUM TARTRATE.

A flame test for the identification would seem to be desirable.—DUNNING.

MILK SUGAR.

The following is proposed as a test for cane sugar: A test solution is prepared by dissolving 1 gm. of resorcinol in 5 cc. of hydrochloric acid in 100 cc. of 80 percent alcohol. A few drops of this test solution added to a few grains of milk sugar in a porcelain dish and cautiously evaporated, the fluid being run away from the milk sugar on the side of the dish. In the presence of cane sugar a bright vermilion flash of red appears, while milk sugar gives a dull red, appearing very slowly after long heating. With a little practice, this test can be used for estimating mere traces of sugar in milk sugar. This test which is a modification of the test used for detecting hydrochloric acid in animal secretions, has given good results in my hands wherein the sulphuric acid has proved useless.—DUNNING.

SYRUP OF WILD CHERRY.

The 1890 formula is recommended as producing a more desirable color and better keeping qualities than the formula of 1900.—DUNNING.

TINCTURE OF CARDAMOM, COMPOUND.

The substitution of the 1900 formula for this preparation in preference to the 1890 is believed to be a great mistake. The process of percolation should be used and the glycerin should be added afterwards. A preparation so prepared is of better physical appearance and possessed of better keeping qualities than by any other method tried. The 1900 formula gives a preparation which filters clear with great difficulty and has a color which is not the bright, attractive red that it should have.—DUNNING.

TINCTURE OF LAVENDER, COMPOUND.

The statements made with reference to the compound tincture of cardamom, apply to this tincture but in a lesser degree.—DUNNING.

The chairman has endeavored to interest the Food and Drug chemists in the U. S. P. and N. F. and has received some valuable suggestions but the number of responses has been too limited up to this time to warrant drawing definite conclusions. The replies so far received seem to favor a sharper line of demarkation between the U. S. P. and N. F. and more standards particularly where the "Purity Rubric" is given. There is also a demand that the results of modern research into the realms of adulteration and standardization be made more readily available than is at present possible with the wording of the Food and Drugs Law, and the decennial revisions of the Pharmacopœia.

In many quarters an authorized standard work representing the concensus of opinion of the medical profession on the medical properties and therapeutic value of drugs would be welcomed. This demand has already been met to a

certain extent, by the New and Non-official Remedies of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association; and it is hoped that when our Association gets its much needed home and laboratory, coöperative work of this character may be engaged in.

In conclusion it is recommended by this Committee that in the case of articles which may be used for either food or drug purposes, the standard and method of assaying of same be made identical whenever practical so as to avoid double standards, one for foods and another for drugs.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. CASPARI,
L. F. KEBLER,
ELIE H. LAPIERRE,
WM. MITTLBACH,

E. FULLERTON COOK, Secretary.
H. A. B. DUNNING.
L. D. HAVENHILL, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNOFFICIAL STANDARDS.

The work of the Committee on Standards for Unofficial Drugs and Chemical products during the past year, has been more limited and less actual progress has been made than in the preceding years. In explanation of this statement, it is but fair to explain that the demands upon the time of a number of the members who are engaged upon the work of the revision of the United States Pharmacopœia precluded their giving the same amount of attention and time as heretofore given to the work of this Committee. Illness has compelled one of our most active members to temporarily discontinue his labors on the Committee, and death has invaded our ranks and has taken one of our active members. With the completion of the active constructive work on the Pharmacopœial Revision the members of this Committee can again divert their time from that labor to the necessities of this Committee, and it is hoped that in the near future more rapid progress in our work can be reported.

Since the Denver meeting, monographs covering the following topics have been presented and discussed in our correspondence:

Metaphosphoric Acid	Hen's Egg
Fresh Egg Albumen	Peptone
Baptisia	Pumice
Delphinium	Sambucus
Eucalyptus Gum	Strontium Carbonate
Mullein Flowers	Lime Juice
Blackberries	Trillium
Horse-nettle Berries	Fresh Egg Yolk
Agaric	Iron and Manganese Peptonate
Asclepias	Juniper Berries
Calcium Glycerophosphate	Mace
Dioscorea	Menyanthes
Extract of Beef	Oil of Orange Flowers
White Ash Bark	Oil of Bay
Raspberries	Passion Flower
Balsam Poplar Buds	Potassium Chloride
Iron Peptonate	Rennin
Juglans	Senecio
Cow's Milk	Fresh Apple Juice
Manganese Peptonate	Trifolium
Oil of Bitter Orange Peel	Verbena
Oil of Bergamot	