

willing to subscribe to and observe the constitution and by-laws is welcome. Can you imagine a more cosmopolitan pharmaceutical body. A place where we find working for the common good, the apprentice, clerk, proprietor, jobber, manufacturer, teacher, author, editor and consultant. As first pointed out by Secretary Beal, it is the "great clearing house in American pharmacy."

An A. Ph. A. home would first of all emphasize the permanency and make more apparent the stability of the organization.

The historical instinct is asserting itself among the American people and with a fireproof home we can collect and preserve the important material which pharmacists should contribute to the history of their country.

The organizers of the A. Ph. A. little realized the possibilities of the National Formulary. With a well equipped laboratory at headquarters, the work of revising this authority can be greatly facilitated. The work on the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book will also be furthered if an experimental laboratory is at hand for the final proving of the formulas.

With the continued growth of the A. Ph. A. would come additional facilities for the development of activities within the scope of the A. Ph. A. but not possible as long as we are confined to itinerant headquarters.

Lastly, the spirit of patriotism which suggests honoring the memory of such men as Procter, Parrish, Maisch, Rice, Curtman, Ebert, Hallberg and Cook, spurs us on to work for the future of pharmacy and the even greater development of the A. Ph. A. What more fitting memorial can be erected to the memory of those who lived and labored for pharmacy, than a permanent home for the headquarters of the A. Ph. A., its official periodical and other publications?

The association has special funds which will grow more rapidly under home influence and maternal guidance. The A. Ph. A. holds about fifty thousand dollars in permanent, trust and current funds and this has been collected in spite of the fact that "a rolling stone gathereth no moss."

The fund necessary to build the home should represent contributions from every interest in legitimate pharmacy.

The question of a location need not now be discussed. Let us do our part towards providing the ways and means for the home.

TINCTURE OF IODINE.*

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This commodity has probably been examined more frequently than any other simple drug offered for sale by the retail trade, and I know of no medicinal agent which has more frequently been found wanting. Observations and investigations have frequently shown that when iodine was dissolved in simple ethyl alcohol there was a great tendency for the iodine to be changed into hydriodic acid and other compounds, thus actually lowering the free iodine content, and the

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diminution increased with the age of the preparation. Experiments conducted to obviate this difficulty indicated that the presence of potassium iodide tended to inhibit the usual combination of the iodine and thus increase the stability of the tincture. The method outlined for the manufacture of this commodity by the last (8th) revision of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia prescribes the use of a certain amount of potassium iodide. The shortcomings of the tinctures available on the market have, however, not been materially reduced. Almost every State Board which has taken up this question has found that a large number of the samples are deficient in iodine content. This shortcoming cannot now be so fully ascribed to deterioration, neither can it be ascribed to difficulties in manufacture, because the process of manufacture is extremely simple.

During the past few years a considerable number of samples of tincture of iodine have been examined in the Bureau of Chemistry. The samples shipped into interstate commerce were found to comply closely with the pharmacopoeial requirements. All of them contain the requisite amount of potassium iodide. A goodly number of samples were collected in the District of Columbia and analyzed with the following results:

Iodine. Grams per 100 cc.	% Variation ¹	Potassium Iodide Grams per 100 cc.	% Variation ¹	Alcohol. % Volume	Declaration
1.97	71.5	1.3	74	86	Correct
3.42	50	None	100	93.5	Not declared
4.40	36	5.38	7.5	85	Not declared
5.04	27	None	100	94.4	Not declared
5.08	26	3.03	40	95	Small type
5.09	26	Trace	100	91	Correct
5.36	22	2.1	58	95	Correct
5.52	19.5	5.30	6	95	Not declared
5.57	19.5	5.84	17	93.5	Not declared
5.81	15	5.03	None	93.5	Correct
5.88	14.5	None	100	95	Not declared
5.89	14.5	None	100	92.8	Not declared
6.06	12.5	6.82	36	94.5	Correct
6.09	11	1.02	80	93.5	Not declared
6.11	10	4.93	7	95	Correct
6.18	10	5.97	7	91	Correct
6.18	10	4.45	11	93	Correct
6.24	9	4.32	13.5	88	Correct
6.29	8	2.79	46	91	Not declared
6.29	8	4.61	8	91	Small type
6.32	8	2.58	48.5	91	Not declared
6.34	7.5	None	100	93.6	Small type
6.36	7.5	3.84	23	92.5	Not declared
6.48	5.5	4.92	2	95	Correct
6.48	5.5	3.81	24	88.5	Correct
6.49	5.5	5.34	7	95	Small type
6.73	.5	6.52	30	95	Correct
6.75	.5	2.42	51.5	96	Correct
6.76	.5	3.82	24	85.50	Small type
6.78	....	2.46	51	90.5	Correct
6.80	....	3.95	21	91	Not declared
6.80	....	3.49	30	86.5	Not declared
6.84	....	5.56	11	93	Incorrect
6.85	.5	5.1	2	92.72	Correct
6.90	....	0.97	80.5	95	Small type
6.97	.5	None	100	91.5	Small type
7.00	2.0	5.79	16	91	Not declared
7.03	2.5	5.52	10	91	Small type
7.04	2.5	5.00	None	93.5	Correct
7.18	4.5	4.58	8.5	89.5	Correct
7.21	4.5	5.17	3	90.5	Correct
7.21	4.5	5.67	13.5	88.50	Not declared
7.24	5.5	5.14	3	90	Not declared
7.58	10.5	5.12	2	94.5	Correct
7.95	15.6	4.50	10	86	Not declared
8.07	17.5	4.38	12.5	90	Small type
8.11	18	3.86	23	91.50	Not declared
8.11	18	6.00	20	95	Correct
8.37	21.9	5.45	9	89	Not declared
9.26	35	5.23	4.5	89.5	Not declared

¹N. B.—The percent variation in above analyses is calculated to the nearest half percent.

The pharmacopœial tincture contains about 6.86 grams of free iodine and 5 grams of potassium iodide in 100cc. The range of variation (1.97 to 9.26 grams per 100 cc.) is certainly remarkable. What real valid excuse can be offered for either of the above extremes? Furthermore, is there any substantial reason for some of the other variations? The permissible variation from the standard must be met sooner or later. Shall it be stringent or reasonable? If reasonable shall the variation be 5 percent or 10 percent or 20 percent? Considering that the adjective "about" qualifies the amount of free iodine that should be present in the tincture, about 60 percent exceed a 5 percent variation, 40 percent a 10 percent variation and 18 percent a 20 percent variation. I do not believe many manufacturers will contend for or advise a 20 percent variation in that it would not only savor of carelessness but actually encourage it. Is then a 10 percent variation either way from the standard, reasonable, fair and just to the manufacturer, the consumer, the physician, etc., or is it desirable to be more stringent?

Suggestions are invited either in the columns of this Journal or otherwise. The free iodine is the essential factor of this tincture, but the potassium iodide and percentage of alcohol must also be considered. The conditions noted above relative to the variability of the free iodine also holds for potassium iodide. The variation ranges from no potassium iodide to 6.82 grams per 100 cc. Discussion in this connection is also invited.

THE NEED FOR RESTRICTING THE INTERSTATE TRAFFIC IN HABIT FORMING DRUGS.*

M. I. WILBERT.

It is generally recognized that few if any trades or professions are more generally protected, more variously restricted or more thoroughly hampered by laws and regulations than is that portion of the drug business that is usually defined as the practice of pharmacy. On the other hand there are few if any occupations that offer greater possibilities for immunity and profit to the individual who is willing to ignore the letter, or even the spirit of existing laws and regulations than does this same retail branch of the drug business.

To illustrate it is but necessary to call attention to the profitable business frequently done by the drug store saloon keeper in prohibition territory and the comparative immunity that is assured the dope distributing druggist or nostrum peddler who is willing to restrict his business to interstate traffic in these drugs.

Even the intrastate traffic in drugs of this type appears to be safe and profitable because of the usual lack of funds and energy to enforce existing legislation within the State.

Recognizing the existing shortcomings it is not surprising that law abiding physicians and pharmacists generally are desirous of providing efficient means for restricting the sale and use of narcotic or habit forming drugs and are par

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