

SOME PHARMACEUTICAL NOTES.

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U. S. P. Elix. Phosphate, Iron, Quinine and Strychnine.—Three samples were kept for four months, exposed to ordinary light of laboratory and the change in colors observed. No. 1, made by U. S. P. method, changed to a light brown color. No. 2, with 4 gr. carbonate potash to each ounce, changed to dark brown. No. 3, with 4 m. hydrochloric acid to each ounce, remained unchanged.

Tinct. Opium Deodorized.—I much prefer to use paraffin as a deodorant instead of purified petroleum benzin. I have found it be both convenient and reliable. The disagreeable odor of the benzin and the danger of an explosion from the ignition of the vapors are both avoided. About 70 gm. of paraffin to a litre of tincture is sufficient. The paraffin should be melted and added to the hot evaporated aqueous extract, stirred well, allowed to remain over night and then removed in a solid cake. In assaying the tincture made by this method, I have noticed that the morphine is remarkably white and pure.

Tinct. Opium Camphorated.—No good reason can be seen for making this from granulated opium and having to wait three days for it to macerate, when it can be made in a very short time by using an equivalent amount of tincture of opium.

By dissolving the benzoic acid, camphor and oil of anise in about 10 percent of the alcohol, and adding this gradually, with stirring, to a mixture of a greater part of the dilute alcohol, the tincture of opium and the glycerin, and then adding gradually an amount of water equal to the alcohol used at first and finally adding dilute alcohol in quantity sufficient, and filtering, an excellent tincture can be made in a very short time.

Tincture of Iodine.—Mr. E. A. Geyer's method (see Bul. Pharm., vol. XXVI, p. 167), of making this tincture by pouring the alcohol on the iodine and potassium iodide, which have been placed on a pledget of cotton in a glass funnel and collecting the percolate in a graduated bottle, is one which I can commend very highly as being a great improvement over the U. S. P. method. I have found it best, however, to rub the potassium iodide to a very fine powder, as it will be necessary to return the percolate to the funnel again if the granular salt is used.

Sweet Spirit of Nitre.—In making this from the concentrated ether, I have found that with some samples of alcohol a very red color would immediately appear, but after standing about 12 hours would resume its natural color again. I attribute this to a small amount of tannin in the alcohol, which is sometimes dissolved from the barrel.

Color in Fresh Lemon Peel.—After extracting practically all the color from some fresh lemon peels with alcohol, some lime water was added to the mixture. Almost immediately the solution was colored a brilliant yellow color. The peels, which were very brittle and almost white when taken from the alcohol, had also changed to a yellow color.

Ammonia, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, potassium carbonate and

other alkalies all gave the same result. The addition of acids to the alkaline solution or to the alcoholic tincture completely destroyed all color, but the addition of an excess of alkali restored it again.

Some of this coloring principle was obtained by evaporating an ammoniacal solution of this yellow color on a water bath. It was a brownish resinous substance, insoluble in alcohol, ether, or chloroform, but completely soluble in water or in dilute alcohol.

The dried peel also yields its color to alkalies, but the color is a browner shade.

Boiling the solution had no effect on the color.

By taking advantage of this fact these rejected lemon peels can be used very profitably as a coloring for aqueous, alkaline and hydro-alcoholic solutions.

Camphor Liniment.—By powdering the camphor, putting it in a cheese cloth bag, and suspending this in the cotton seed oil, stoppering the bottle and shaking at intervals for two or three days, an excellent preparation can be made which is strictly U. S. P. There is no chance of losing the camphor by volatilization as in the U. S. P. method.

THE DRUDGERY OF THE DRUGGERY.

The grocer, the butcher and the general stores close at 6 o'clock and no Sunday work. Has it occurred to you that we, among all trades, workers and professions, are keeping our stores open fifteen to sixteen hours a day and desecrate the Sabbath under the cloak of necessity? We have become slaves to our business, no time for recreation, no time for druggists' meetings, not even time, I am told to take off the wrapper from the drug journals to absorb the information that may turn the tide of prosperity our way.

Commercial side lines are pointed to as the remedy and they, no doubt, are doing great things for some of us in a financial way and I believe in stocking them to the limit, but the fact of our becoming pirates on other lines to continue the practice of our profession is at most a poor substitute for the profit we should get on our own lines.

The remedy is this: Get together; support our organizations as we should, both financially and morally. We have them with officers who sacrifice time and money to better conditions for you. Why is it necessary that a few faithful should be obliged to uphold them? Why is it necessary that the traveler who receives no direct benefit therefrom should be called upon to support your organizations that are for your benefit, for your advancement alone? Have we no pride, no shame, no manhood?

The mechanic and the laborer contribute more per capita to the support of their organizations than we would if we joined the National Association of Retail Druggists, American Pharmaceutical Association, and our state and local associations.—*Richard T. Merring.*