

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

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

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DANISH OINTMENT.

According to the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist* of November 22, 1930, page 515, Danish Ointment was first introduced by Marcussen in 1911, who published the formula about a year later. This ointment has been frequently prescribed of late for the treatment of scabies, either under the above name or as the proprietary, Kathiolan. It is prepared as follows: (1) Dissolve sublimed sulphur 1000 Gm. in a hot solution, 50 per cent (w/w), of potassium hydroxide, 1000 Gm.; (2) mix together anhydrous lanolin and soft yellow paraffin of each 225 Gm.; (3) to this mixture add 375 Gm. of the clear sulphur solution; (4) prepare fresh zinc hydroxide by mixing an aqueous solution, containing zinc sulphate 28 Gm. with 40 Gm. of a 20 per cent solution of sodium hydroxide. The precipitate should be washed and added to the ointment; (5) make up the ointment to 1000 Gm. with sufficient liquid paraffin; and (6) mask the odor of hydrogen sulphide with benzaldehyde, 5 Gm.

The method of application consists in the patient first taking an ordinary bath, and after thorough drying, the whole body except the head is covered with the ointment. Twenty-four hours later a second bath is taken and fresh underclothings used, and the cure is then considered to be complete.

There has been considerable criticism of this formula, various authorities being of the opinion that the quantity of potassium hydroxide prescribed is insufficient, while others have been able to prepare satisfactory solutions with the amount indicated. The following suggestions are made where difficulty is

experienced in dissolving the sulphur: (1) A larger amount of potassium hydroxide should be used; (2) a saturated solution of H₂S in half the prescribed amount of KOH solution can be substituted; and (3) the gradual sifting of the sulphur into the hot caustic potash solution with constant stirring and allowing this to stand over night and then decanting and filtering the liquor on the following morning.

CORN SUGAR.

Secretary Hyde's ruling on corn sugar may prove to be of far-reaching importance. The ruling is an administrative change which permits corn sugar to be used in the packing and preparation of foods without being designated as such. Its effect will be to stimulate the corn sugar industry and it may tend to relieve overproduction of corn.

Refining processes have been so perfected that a clear, white, granulated sugar is now made from corn. The Department of Agriculture has found that it is 75 per cent as sweet as cane sugar; that it has some properties more valuable than cane sugar, and that it is a wholesome and healthful food. The fact that it required a special label gave it a mark of inferiority in the public mind, hence, manufacturers of prepared foods would not use corn sugar, even though they recognized its wholesomeness.

Corn sugar should not be sold as cane sugar and, if the facts relating to it are given to the public, existing prejudice will be removed. There seems to be no objection to its use in canned goods, but there may be for pharmaceuticals.