

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

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

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COMMENTS PERTINENT TO THE COMING REVISIONS OF THE U. S. P. AND N. F.*

BY GEORGE E. ÉWE.

Since revision of the U. S. P. and N. F. will shortly be conducted, comments and criticisms which may be helpful in the revision processes are pertinent at this time.

It seems the duty of those having occasion to consult these reference books in their daily work, and who consequently are in a position to judge the practical nature of their contents, to comment upon and criticize certain features in a constructive sense.

Consequently, the following comments are offered with the hope that out of all the chaff sufficient grains may be salvaged to reward the efforts of the winnower.

Aloe, U. S. P.—If the U. S. P. test for "gum or inorganic impurities" is of significance it should be placed on a quantitative basis. Practically no market product will yield a "nearly clear" solution in this test.

Aloin, U. S. P.—It is often difficult to dissolve 1 Gm. in 120 cc. distilled water at 25° C. by shaking frequently during 2 hours and high results are sometimes obtained, as a consequence, for proportion of insoluble matter. A slightly elevated temperature makes this test convenient and reliable. The effect of elevated temperature upon the permissible limit of insoluble matter requires investigation, with the view of making results of this test more certain.

Chloramine, U. S. P.—Caution against contact of this substance with organic materials at elevated temperature might be included as it may cause a conflagration if dampened and then dried on paper in a tablet granulation drier.

Cod Liver Oil, U. S. P.—Vitamin A standard is too low. A method of determining vitamin D should be added.

Compound Resorcin Ointment, N. F.—Usually discolors in a few weeks to a few months and becomes unsightly. Means of preventing this deserve study.

Elixir Four Chlorides, N. F.—Precipitates a mixture of organic matter and mercurous

* Scientific Section, A. PH. A., Baltimore meeting, 1930.