

Melt the 20% acid and incorporate with the liquid petrolatum, warming if necessary to effect solution. Allow to stand without agitation. A liquefying gel results.

Other Jellified Products.—Liquefying gels were produced when hydroxystearic acid was dissolved in other substances. Fixed oils, such as almond, linseed, cottonseed and sesame, produced gels with about 2.5% of hydroxystearic acid. Hydrocarbons such as kerosene and benzene produced transparent gels with 10% of the acid. Other hydrocarbons, benzene and toluene, required more hydroxystearic acid and produced a more opaque, somewhat granular appearing product. Gels were also produced with 10% of the acid in volatile oils such as turpentine and methyl salicylate.

SUMMARY

Hydroxystearic acid was shown to be a jellifying material for liquid petrolatum and fixed oils in quantities of 1 or 2 per cent. In larger quantities it also produced gels with hydrocarbons and volatile oils.

Liquefying ointments were prepared using jellified liquid petrolatum to replace petrolatum of the U. S. P. and N. F. formulas. The base appeared to be compatible with medicaments in the same manner as petrolatum and produced ointments which readily liquefied when placed upon the skin. The consistency of the final ointment varied with the amount of hydroxystearic acid present.

Used in cosmetics, the addition of hydroxystearic acid definitely improved the consistency of products containing liquid petrolatum, whether solutions or emulsions.

REFERENCES

- (1) Fiero, G. W., *Jour. A. Ph. A.*, 28 (1939), 598-602.
- (2) Fiero, G. W., *Ibid.*, 29 (1940), 19-23.

Book Review

The Chemist's Dictionary of Synonyms, incorporating Rouse's Synonyms. Published at the Office of the Chemist and Druggist, 28 Essex Street, Strand, London, W. C. 2, 1940. 6 x 9, 136 pages. Price, postpaid, 5s., 4d.

The purpose of the publication is to supply definitions of terms for quick reference in the pharmacy and while the book is intended for the British pharmacy, it has related value for all pharmacists. Very likely British synonyms will be brought to the attention of American pharmacists more frequently because of war conditions.—E. G. E.

The Most Comprehensive Food and Drug Bill

Introduced into the United States Congress by William H. F. Lee (May 31, 1837, to October 15, 1891) Soldier, Agriculturist and Legislator

By Lyman F. Kebler*

Of the more than one hundred food and drug bills introduced into the United States Congress, over a period of 25 years, that finally resulted in the enactment of the National Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906, Representative Lee's bill (H. R. 10320), introduced (1) June 4, 1888, is considered by many the most comprehensive. This is the first of the modern food and drug bills introduced into Congress by a Representative of Virginia. Congressman R. L. T. Beale of Virginia, a member of the Congress that enacted the Drug and Chemical import law in 1848, over thirty years later, introduced the second food bill in 1879 and Representative John S. Barbour of Virginia, introduced a food bill for the District of Columbia in 1886. Neither of the two latter bills covered drugs.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF AUTHOR OF BILL

Representative William H. F. Lee was born in the Lee Mansion, just across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial, the second son of the illustrious General Robert E. Lee and Mary Ann Randolph (Custis) Lee, the granddaughter of Martha Washington, by her first husband. This is another instance of a Lee marrying into a wealthy, prosperous, influential family. A study of these marriages forces the conclusion that the blending of the blood and fortunes of some of these wives with the Lees were distinct assets to successive generations. There seemed to be something in the female side that inspired their sons to greater endeavors.

One of objects of some of the marriages in those days was, in part at least, the combining of fortunes and families of influence. It should be noted that the oldest son inherited the major part, if not all of the family estate and that while the younger brothers usually inherited comparatively little, some of them increased it by winning the hands of wealthy heiresses. How well some of them succeeded is shown by a study of the history (2) and

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