

Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing

Papers Presented at the Sixty-First Annual Convention

METHOD OF HANDLING STRONGER AMMONIA WATER.

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Perhaps there is no more difficult or aggravating task that the pharmacist comes in contact with than the handling of stronger ammonia water as it is ordinarily done in the drug store, by pouring it from one container into another. On account of the irritating and volatile properties of its gas the difficulty in handling it becomes a very grave proposition when it becomes necessary to transfer to small containers the contents of a tank which usually contains about 800 pounds.

Aside from the physical difficulty encountered in coming in contact with the fumes, the loss of strength incurred is a very important factor to consider. In order to obviate these difficulties as much as possible, the following method has been adopted, which is based on the principle of a syphon started by compressed air.

An iron compression tank with intake and outlet tubes, each having a stop-cock, is filled with air from an air pump operated by hand or by motor power until a pressure of about 20 pounds is obtained. Below the stop-cock on the outlet tube, fitted on with a union couple is a T joint, one end of which is closed by a stop-cock, the other end is threaded about $\frac{1}{4}$ " and is screwed into a threaded hole in the iron bung of the ammonia tank. This tube should not be flush with the inside of the bung, as the contact of it with the ammonia will color the ammonia. Another hole, unthreaded, is bored in the bung, and through it a glass tube is passed to the bottom of the ammonia tank, the top end of which is bent at a right angle, and connected with a rubber tube in which is fastened a pinch-cock. A mixture of hot rosin and wax is poured into the bung to make connections air-tight. In order to draw the ammonia, the outlet cock of the air reservoir is opened and the cock at the end of T joint is closed, the air enters the ammonia tank, with pressure, and causes the liquid to flow through the glass tube from the bottom through the rubber tube into container, when pinch-cock is released. The flow can be shut off by fastening down the pinch-cock. When all is drawn that is needed the cock on outlet tube of the compression tank is closed and the cock on T joint is opened, liberating the air in the ammonia tank, thus releasing pressure on syphon tube. Only a pound or two of pressure will be needed to draw ammonia from a full tank, but it will require about twenty pounds to empty it when low. By getting these holes bored in bungs of different

sizes, and keeping these on hand, tanks with various size bungs can be emptied when received. By this method the drawing of the ammonia is under complete control of the operator, with no risk of suffocation or loss of strength of ammonia gas.

This method is especially applicable to wholesale handlers of stronger ammonia water, but the same principle can be used when it is purchased on carboys, and a bicycle pump can be used to give pressure instead of having a reservoir of compressed air.

As this is a question that confronts every handler of ammonia water, the writer would like to hear this subject discussed by other members of this Association.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. F. W. Nitardy, of Denver, said he would like to state the way he handled ammonia water. He used a rubber tube as a siphon. In order to start the siphon, it was first filled with water, one end inserted in the carboy and the water in the siphon was drawn off into a graduate. He had never experienced any trouble in this. The method was very simple, and did not require anything but a piece of rubber tubing.

A NEW AND SATISFACTORY FORMULA FOR LIQUOR ANTISEPTICUS.

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The pharmacopoeial formula for Liquor Antisepticus has been frequently criticized and justly so, for being a harsh and unpleasant preparation. Solutions of this type should be pleasant and fragrant, as they form valuable adjuncts to the toilet. A formula which is the result of numerous experiments made by a generous user of such preparations and which has been modified from time to time to correct slight deficiencies, is herewith presented as being satisfactory to a larger number of persons than any other similar solution with which the author has had any experience:

Eucalyptol	5.0 Cc.
Methyl salicylate	1.2 Cc.
Oil thyme, white.....	0.3 Cc.
Thymol	1.0 Gm.
Menthol	1.0 Gm.
Sodium salicylate	1.2 Gm.
Sodium benzoate	6.0 Gm.
Boric acid	25.0 Gm.
Fluidextract golden seal.....	2.0 Cc.
Alcohol	300.0 Cc.
Water q. s. to make.....	1000.0 Cc.

Make the solution according to the art of the pharmacist, reserving 60 cc. of the alcohol to add to the clear filtrate.

Kieselguhr or talc may be used as a filtering medium.