

then we analyzed some of it and found it to be sodium carbonate. On examining the label of the container it was found to be labelled calcium carbonate. It also stated the presence of impurities and the amount. Other containers similarly labelled also contained sodium carbonate.

As for examining galenicals, etc., even if bought from a reliable firm, how many of these drug houses will guarantee the strength of a preparation after the container has once been opened? Will they be responsible for its strength until it is all used up? If a druggist dispenses a deteriorated product, is he not guilty of dispensing an improperly labelled product? And how about preparations which you cannot buy from a reliable firm? Another druggist raised this question, "How many druggists do you suppose are capable of doing this kind of work"? Some can not, others can and don't.

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THE McNEERY METHOD FOR PREPARING "MILK OF MAGNESIA."

Wilson W. McNeery, at one of last year's meetings of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, presented a formula for making "milk of magnesia" based on the formation of the suspended magnesium hydroxide in the reaction between sodium hydroxide and magnesium carbonate, and this method has received the recognition of the Revision Committee of the U. S. Pharmacopœia IX.

The reaction between magnesium carbonate and sodium hydroxide is given, and the further calculations are made for arriving at the quantities needed of the *official* chemicals for making a magma containing 40 grains of magnesium hydroxide in one fluidounce of preparation. The calculations develop that in order to have a preparation holding in suspension 40 grains of magnesium hydroxide in a fluidounce is the equivalent of 5120 grains in a gallon, and for this production 9212.46 grains of U.S.P. magnesium carbonate and 6256.08 grains of U.S.P. sodium hydroxide are required and hence constitute the formula for the preparation.

The manipulation is given by Mr. McNeery as follows:

Place 9212.46 grains of magnesium hydroxide in a mortar and triturate with sufficient water to make a smooth mixture. Dissolve 6256.08 grains of sodium hydroxide in sufficient water to make 32 fluidounces of solution. Add the latter solution to the former mixture; pour into a large container and wash by decantation or syphoning until the supernatant liquid is neutral to litmus. Then allow the precipitate to subside until its volume is one gallon, withdrawing the liquid above.

If a slight excess of alkali is used for the reaction, and the precipitate is carefully washed, the product is practically free from carbonate. The product is smooth, white and creamy.
