SOME REVISION SUGGESTIONS.

BY E. V. KYSER.

The March issue of the JOURNAL contains a number of suggestions for proposed changes in the official preparations containing Oils or Soap.

There is not a great difference in the commonly used fixed oils, and there should be a better understanding regarding the chemical and physical standards of the various oils.

Linimentum Camphorae.—I. Lewyn suggests the use of peanut oil to replace cottonseed. I do not agree with his statement that cottonseed oil is adulterated to any extent. It is true that unrefined cottonseed oil usually contains a large percentage of foreign matter which may cause turbidity. Peanut oil is nearer olive oil in chemical composition and does not possess the objectionable characteristics of cottonseed oil. Peanut oil is a non-drying oil and not likely to become oxidized as readily as cottonseed oil. I believe this would be a satisfactory change.

The recommendation of the use of peanut oil instead of soap liniment for Linimentum Chloroformi, because of its greater stability, and prevention of the evaporation of the chloroform would seem to be without foundation. Soap in a solution of chloroform is stable. Chloroform liniment is a simple mixture and there is no evaporation of chloroform in making.

Linimentum Saponis.—I. Lewyn recommends the use of camphorated oil in place of soap and camphor. This would necessitate a change in the name of the liniment. I do not believe that this change would give good results, as the fixed oil is not miscible with alcohol and consequently would separate out. However, it would be just as effective and more economical to use other than an olive oil soap.

Linimentum Ammoniae.—I. Lewyn: Peanut oil here would function the same as sesame oil. The fact that it is a home product should encourage its adoption.

Liquor Cresolis Compositus.—Method of analysis for water. A weighed sample of convenient size is transferred to a distilling flask, and heated at 105° C. until nearly all of the water is driven off. The temperature is gradually increased to 180°–190°, and continued for a few minutes. The distillate is received in a graduated tube. Carbon tetrachloride is added, and the whole thoroughly shaken. The carbon tetrachloride mixes with the cresol and the water is so separated and can be read off and calculated.

In making cresol solution any oil used will answer the purpose of linseed. It is not necessary to use any potash or alcohol in the formula.

If the Pharmacopoeia permits the use of soda in Sapo Mollis as I have suggested, the soft soap and cresol could be mixed in the proportion of one part cresol to one part soft soap.

The use of Oleic Acid, as suggested by S. L. Hilton, will give a good solution. I would recommend that the oleic acid be saponified before adding.

The action of the alkali on cresol here tends to decrease the amount available for the complete saponification of the oleic acid.