

REVISION SUGGESTIONS FOR THE U. S. PHARMACOPOEIA AND NATIONAL FORMULARY.*

BY J. LEON LASCOFF.

A few weeks ago I presented a paper before the New York Branch, A. Ph. A., on "The Galenicals of the U. S. P. and N. F." In this paper an appeal was made to the U. S. P. Revision Committee that the *modus operandi* for some of the galenicals be so simplified that the retail pharmacist will be able to prepare them himself, instead of buying them from the manufacturer.

The reason for my appeal is, that the Committee on Propaganda of the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations cannot conscientiously ask the medical profession to prescribe the official preparations in preference to proprietary or secret formulae, because many pharmacists do not prepare them but purchase them from other sources. Not much skill is required for preparing some galenicals, but the procedure for others is quite difficult and complicated. The results indicate that the pharmacist who lacks the laboratory facilities and has not the essential apparatus can not properly and accurately prepare many of the galenicals; in the absence of such equipment the public is, in my opinion, better protected when they are purchased from a reliable manufacturing house.

It has been stated by Dr. H. V. Army that the U. S. P. IX is of use only to pharmacists who are trained to perform high-grade chemical and microscopical work. Unfortunately, many pharmacists are not in possession of a polariscope and other apparatus of this class. Many samples have, in the past, been collected and analyzed of which quite a large percentage did not come up to the standard, having been purchased from unreliable manufacturers.

The average retail pharmacist is not equipped for biologically assaying tincture of digitalis or preparing a fluidextract like that of Belladonna, but we can expect him to manufacture other galenicals of the U. S. P. and N. F., complying with the *standard*, if the methods for preparing them are simplified.

I fully agree with Dr. Lyman F. Kebler, who suggested that a careful canvass be made of the medical profession and of their prescriptions on file at drug stores to determine what preparations are generally used by them in their practice.

In examining my prescription files I found that a good many galenicals of the U. S. P., and especially of the N. F., are very infrequently called for. Some of them remain on the shelves for years and many deteriorate.

In the present U. S. P. there are about 340 galenicals and in the N. F., 580; many of them could be eliminated and a number of other preparations added. The following articles which are never prescribed could be deleted from the National Formulary:

1. *Collodions*.—Styptic collodion and Croton Oil Collodion are never used.
2. *Elixirs*.—Of the 78 N. F. elixirs, about ten percent could be deleted, because they are seldom, if ever, prescribed; for example: Elixir Cinchona Alkaloids, Iron and Calcium Lactophosphate; Compound Elixir of Corydalis; Compound Elixir of Formates, etc.
Elixir of Iron and Quinine Phosphates should be added.
3. *Plasters*.—Salicylated Soap Plaster (10%) should be added.

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4. *Emulsions*.—Emulsion of Petrolatum should be deleted; a very important emulsion should be added, *viz.*, Emulsion of Creosote Carbonate.
5. *Fluidglycerates* are very seldom prescribed.
6. *Infusions and Decoctions*.—More should be included.
7. *Solutions*.—Antiseptic Solution of Pepsin should be deleted. Antiseptic Solution becomes cloudy on standing, the formula should be improved; the formula for Solution of Iron Albuminate should be simplified.
8. *Mixtures*.—Compound Mixture of Chloroform and Morphine, and Mixture of Oil of Tar should be deleted. Glycerin should be omitted in Compound Mixture of Rhubarb; physicians prefer to specify the formula of U. S. P. VIII.
9. *Oleates*.—Oleate of Cocaine is seldom prescribed and should be deleted.
10. *Petroxolins*.—Very few are prescribed; some of them should be eliminated.
11. *Spirits*.—Etheral oil is not always obtainable and, therefore, compound spirit of ether should be deleted.
12. *Syrups*.—Syrup of the Bromides is a good preparation and frequently prescribed; formerly Compound Syrup of Asarum was often prescribed but not now; we have had some of the preparation in stock for five years.
Syrup of Morphine and Acacia and Compound Syrup of White Pine with Morphine should be deleted.
13. *Tinctures*.—Another menstruum should be designated for alcohol in Tincture of Larkspur; Decolorized Tincture of Iodine is not an iodine tincture, the formula should be changed or the preparation omitted from the N. F.
14. *Ointments*.—A simple ointment should displace the wax and lard of the present formula for Camphor Ointment. Ointment of Zinc Stearate is seldom prescribed and should be deleted.
15. *Wines*.—Compound Wine of Glycerophosphates is preferred by most physicians to the Elixir and should displace it. Wine of Wild Cherry is seldom prescribed and should be deleted.
16. *Tablets*.—A chapter on tablet triturates, compressed tablets and hypodermic tablets should be included in the U. S. P., giving full directions for making them.
17. *Ampoules*.—A description of ampoules should be included in one of the standards with methods for preparation and sterilization.

FLUIDEXTRACT OF IPECAC.*

BY FRANTZ F. BERG.

Each succeeding revision of the Pharmacopoeia has found a change in the process of manufacture of Fluidextract of Ipecac. Judging from personal experience and that of others, we have not as yet obtained a preparation of this drug which satisfies the two-fold property of being permanent and at the same time suitable for the preparation of a Syrup of Ipecac.

A review of the literature on this subject and the drug itself reveals the fact that it is a very old subject. Several strengths of alcohol, together with the addition of various acids, have been tried with varied success, none of which have yielded a preparation entirely satisfactory.

The problem, as before stated, is to prepare a fluidextract which will not precipitate on standing and yet be miscible with syrup.

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