

Diocetyl Sodium Sulfosuccinate as a Tablet Coating

Sir:

Schalker and Vincent (1) reported on the use of dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate (DSS) as a tablet coating agent, listing its many advantages and recommending its use.

A typical coating formula had the following percentage composition; DSS, 20; sodium benzoate, 2-15; propylene glycol, 0.5%; alcohol 70% w/w to make 100 ml. After the evaporation of the solvents, the DSS makes up at least 50% of the coating and could go as high as approximately 85% of the coating.

The authors state that the coating increased the weight of noncoated compressed tablets about 20 to 45 mg. per tablet.

DSS is used medicinally as a stool softener in a dose of 50 to 200 mg. in adults and older children; children 6 to 12, 40 to 120 mg.; children 3 to 6, 20 to 60 mg. (2). Since the coating is mainly

DSS, it is conceivable, especially in multiple-dose therapy, that a patient could receive a therapeutic dose. This could produce some rather undesirable side effects.

In addition to the side effects of an obvious nature, the not so obvious changes on absorption by a potent surface-active agent would have to be determined for each drug with which it is combined.

Therefore, it is recommended that therapeutically active materials not be employed as vehicles or excipients in dosage forms unless the amounts used are well below their therapeutic level, or the amount used is shown to have no adverse effect upon the product.

(1) Schalker, W. L., and Vincent, M. C., *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **53**, 818(1964).

(2) "Physicians' Desk Reference," 19th ed., Medical Economics, Inc., Oradel, N. J., 1965, p. 743.

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Books

REVIEW

Modern Inorganic Pharmaceutical Chemistry. By CLARENCE A. DISCHER. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1964. xi + 636 pp. 15 × 23 cm. Price \$12.

The author has presented general pharmaceutical uses of inorganic compounds, not only as medicinal agents but also as adjuncts in pharmaceutical formulations. The text is organized to present the compounds according to their pharmaceutical applications.

To provide a basis for the study of inorganic compounds, the book includes a comprehensive review of modern atomic and molecular theory, reaction mechanisms, and nomenclature. The chapters discussing the use of inorganic compounds in preparing pharmaceutical dosage forms cover solvents, solubility, stability, buffer systems, vehicles, sterilization, preservation, and certain aspects of physical phenomena related to pharmacy.

Inorganic compounds which possess medicinal activity are considered in detail. Emphasis is placed upon the relationship between electron structure and atomic properties and physiological activity.

NOTICES

Lipid Pharmacology. Vol. 2 of Medicinal Chemistry: A Series of Monographs. Edited by RODOLFO PAOLETTI. Academic Press Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N. Y., 1964. xiii + 538 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$17.50.

Control of Glycogen Metabolism. Ciba Foundation Symposium. Edited by W. J. WHELAN and M. P. CAMERON. Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., 1964. xiv + 434 pp. 14 × 21 cm. Price \$12.50.

The History of Surgical Anesthesia. By THOMAS E. KEYS. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N. Y., 1963. xxx + 193 pp. 13.5 × 21.5 cm. Price \$2. Paperbound.

Modern Drug Encyclopedia. 10th ed. Edited by R. S. GOODHART. Reuben H. Donnelley Corp., 466 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017, 1965. xi + 1103 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$18.50.