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CITRATE OF LITHIUM.*

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Citrate of Lithium of trade is either in a crystalline or pulverulent form.

Its composition when crystalline is exceedingly uniform, but when in powder, as commonly met with in pharmacy, it varies considerably, and is dissimilar to the citrate of lithium of the British Pharmacopœia.

In order to test the suitability of the official proportions of citric acid and lithium carbonate for the production of neutral anhydrous lithium citrate, and to determine whether the *characters and tests* given in the Pharmacopœia were strictly accurate, and in addition to ascertain by the examination of trade specimens how far the requirements of the Pharmacopœia were complied with, the experiments upon which this communication is based were made.

The official process directs that to 100 parts of carbonate of lithium, 180 parts of citric acid should be used, but Squire ('Companion to the Pharmacopœia,' p. 180) takes exception to this, and gives for 100 of carbonate, 200 parts of citric acid, which latter proportions have been accepted, for in the United States' Pharmacopœia, 1874, this ratio has been adopted.

Now neither by calculation nor in actual practice are either of these proportions correct.

*Read before the British Pharmaceutical Conference and published in the *Pharm. Journal and Transactions*.