Mix the Sodium Bicarbonate intimately with the Potassium and Sodium Tartrate; divide the mixture into twelve equal parts, and wrap each part in a separate blue paper.

Then divide the Tartaric Acid into twelve equal parts, and wrap each part in a separate white paper.

The contents of blue and white papers for both pharmacopœiæs are identical as to character. The slightly different amounts are shown as follows:—

	B.P.	U.S.P.
Blue paper.	10·36 grammes.	10·34 grammes.
White paper.	2·46 "	2·25 "

The B. P. Codex defines the following distinct varieties of Seidlitz Powders:—

Extra Strong Seidlitz Powders, in which the sodium potassium tartrate in each blue paper is increased by one-half.

Double Strength Seidlitz Powders, in which the sodium potassium tartrate is doubled in amount.

Improved Seidlitz Powders, in which the tartaric acid in the white paper is replaced by 35 grains of citric acid, flavoured with oil of lemon.

It is important to note that these powders possess quite distinctive names, and are not to be confounded with Seidlitz Powders.

In Seidlitz Powders, the contents of the blue paper should weigh 160 grains (10·36 grammes), and those of the white paper, 38 grains (2·46 gms.). It is by this standard that the results of weighing recorded in the tables are judged. The contents of two blue and of two white papers have been weighed, in the case of each sample; and the differences found may be taken to indicate the care with which the maker of the powder has worked. It is difficult to say what amount of variation in weight should be tolerated; but it is safe to conclude that differences in weight amounting to ten per cent of the weight of the powder, indicate great carelessness in weighing. Where such differences occur between the weights of two powders from the same package, I have used the words: 'Carelessly weighed.'

Nineteen samples fall into this category as regards the blue paper; and ten samples as regards the white paper. It will be seen that great variation occurs in the actual weight of material, both in blue and in white papers. Instead of 160 grains for the total weight of the contents of the blue paper, I find amounts varying from 85 to 295 grains. If we regard 170 and 150 grains as permissible maximum and minimum weights (and I regard the latitude indicated as excessive) we find only 81 samples out of the total number within these limits, so far as the blue paper is concerned. Thirty-four samples weigh more than 170 grains; and 52 samples weigh less than 150 grains. It follows that fully 50 per cent of the total collection is adulterated under the Act, even by the liberal allowance suggested above—the blue paper being alone considered in the estimate.

The white paper should contain 38 grains of Tartaric Acid. This quantity is notably exceeded in comparatively few samples; and in some of these it is approximately proportional to the excess weight of the corresponding blue paper. Far more frequently the amount of tartaric acid is markedly below pharmacopœal requirements. In most of these samples the weight of the blue paper is correspondingly below standard, but this is not always the case.

It is to be remarked that the character of the material used in the manufacture of Seidlitz Powders, as illustrated by this inspection is good. It is also noteworthy that the mixture of Rochelle Salt and bicarbonate of soda contained in the blue paper is usually properly proportioned. In 19 samples the ratio between bicarbonate of soda and Rochelle Salt in the blue paper is quite abnormal, and I have used the word 'Abnormal' in relation to these samples.