

Very fine results in cerates and ointments are obtained by the use of a wax substitute composed of paraffin three parts and wax one part; these substances being melted together and poured into a suitable mould.

Lard-oil, or the oleine of lard, and the wax substitute composed of wax and paraffin, as above, which represents the stearin, when melted together in the proper proportions, and stirred until cool, yield a product closely resembling lard in its external appearance, and having about the same melting point, but possessing the great advantage that this product, though of the same consistence as lard, can be prepared in such a manner as to contain about 75 per cent. of oleine, instead of 62, as in lard, thus producing an ointment which is much more readily absorbed. The paraffin does not crystallize, but, while it gives consistence, produces a peculiar and beautiful whiteness in the product, like that due to the presence of spermaceti in cold-cream.

This substitute for lard, which we may call oleo-paraffin, is prepared as follows: take of

Lard-oil.....	15 Troy ozs.
Paraffin.....	3 Troy ozs.
Wax	1 Troy oz.

Melt the articles at a gentle heat, and when melted, stir until cool.

Oleo-paraffin, as thus prepared, is an excellent substitute for lard and being produced, from substances which are not liable to change, does not readily grow rancid, and does not require to be benzoinated.

To prepare simple ointment, eight parts of oleo-paraffin are melted with two parts of wax, and for simple cerate, eight parts of oleo-paraffin are melted with four parts of wax, as in the processes of the U. S. Pharmacopœia.

Oleo-paraffin may be kept on hand, like lard, or may be prepared every week or two, as required.

The writer believes that oleo-paraffin may be used as a substitute for lard for all pharmaceutical purposes, without the objections attending the latter; the formulas given above may be varied for different seasons of the year, or to meet various conditions, and are offered as a suggestion for further experiments rather than as expressing the best possible proportions.