

Some New Therapeutics.

H. P. MEIER.

Some months ago the writer was appealed to by a physician residing in the northern part of the State, to prepare for him a quantity of Tartate of Lithium and Potassium, and also of Succinate of Iron, both of the articles being at that time not obtainable in this market.

They had been recommended through medical journals as excellent agents in the treatment of biliary lithiasis.

As, in the present case, prompt treatment was desirable, it was concluded to proceed with the preparation on a small scale at once, and as it was really unnecessary to crystallize the double Tartate of Lithium and Potassium, the ingredients were adjusted in solution so that each fluid ounce contained 120 grains of the salt.

The formula of the Crystallized Salt being $K Li C_4 H_4 O_6 + H_2 O = 212$, it becomes an easy matter to determine how much Potassium Bitartrate, $K H C_4 H_4 O_6 = 376$, and how much Lithium Carbonate, $Li_2 CO_3 = 74$, are required to produce the article desired. 2 equivalents of the former (188×2) = 376 parts and 1 equivalent of the latter = 74 parts result in the formation of 424 parts double salt.

If the quantities be taken in grains it becomes possible to readily adjust the strength of an aqueous solution of above named strength which is permanent owing to its concentration.

The quantities taken in practice were:

Potassium Bitartrate 600 grains.
Lithium Carbonate 120 grains.
Water q. s. for 5½ fld. ozs.

The combination is brought about with the aid of heat and the cooled liquor adjusted to the proper measure. In the present case 680 grains double salt represent the amount of the end product.

In order to prepare the Succinate of Iron the following method was observed, the intention being to secure 480 grains of the hydrated Ferric Succinate. It should be remembered that the method of the originator was to administer this salt in the form of a magna or precipitate suspended in water, and many physicians still adhere to this method of presentation, although it is possible to furnish a clear solution by the addition of citrates or tartrates.

A working formula for the quantity above indicated 480 grain (which is made up to 16 fluid ounces of shake mixture) reads as follows:

Take of

Succinic Acid 300 grains
Water 16 fld. ozs.
Aqua Ammonia 300 minims, or q. s., avoiding an excess; dissolve and precipitate with a mixture of
Solution Tersulphate Iron, 2187 grains,
Sodium Acetate 375 grains.
Water 64 fld. ozs.

Wash the resulting precipitate with water on a cotton strainer until free from sulphates and make up the bulk to 16 fluid ounces. It will be noticed that the

quantity of Solution Tersulphate of Iron is slightly in excess, this provision having been found prudent to insure entire decomposition of the Ammonium Succinate. It follows that each fluid ounce of the thoroughly agitated mixture contains in suspension 30 grains of the Ferric Succinate, which is quite readily soluble in the fluids of the stomach under usual conditions.—*Pacific Druggist*.

Compound Extract of Smart-Weed or Water-Pepper.

C. D. LIPPINCOTT.

While this preparation is not officinal it is nevertheless a preparation of considerable merit as an internal as well as external remedy—internally for colic, cramps, diarrhoea or dysentery, cholera morbus, nausea, flatulence, etc.; externally as a stimulating liniment in sprains, bruises or swellings, but not applicable in burns or abraded surfaces. This preparation is used extensively in the East and South, being sold in pint and quart quantities for general family use.

While not depreciating proprietary preparations under this name, I maintain that the formula here presented furnishes a preparation far superior to any of them:

R. Water pepper pulv. 16 ounces.
Capsicum pulv. 5 drachms.
Camphor 10 drachms.
Oil of aniseed 10 drops.
Oil of sassafras 5 drachms.
Alcohol 4 pints.
Water 2½ pints.

Dissolve the oils and camphor in the alcohol, add the water and pour sufficient of the mixture upon the herb and capsicum to moisten, pack into a conical percolator and pour upon it the menstruum until the liquid begins to drop, cork the lower orifice and macerate for 24 hours; then continue the percolation until all the menstruum has passed. Continue the percolation with a menstruum composed of alcohol three parts, water one part, until one gallon of percolate is obtained.—*Rocky Mountain Druggist*.

GALE OIL. A volatile oil obtained by distilling the leaves of *Myrica Gale*, brownish yellow, density at 12°, 0.876, thickish and of a peculiarly pleasant, balsamic odor.

Java coca leaves have been examined by F. Giesel, (Pharm. Zeit.), who found about two per cent. of total alkaloids, the greater proportion of which were, however, cinnamyl compounds, cinnamyl-cocaine and truxilline. The cinnamyl-cocaine is an isomer or homologue of cocaine, greatly resembling it in chemical and physiological properties.

Azoinid or Imidazoic Acid, $N_3 H$, noticed in these columns on several occasions, has now been obtained by the discoverers, Curtiss and Rabenhausen, (Jour. Prakt. Chem.) in its anhydrous condition. It represents a clear, colorless, mobile liquid of penetrating odor, the melting point of which lies at 37°C. The body is extremely explosive.

Laboratory Notes.

A LABORATORY DEVICE.—Most practical chemists are painfully aware of the unsightly appearance of reagent bottles, caused by the drops of the solutions running down the outside and crystallizing thereon. This may be prevented by simply painting the rim with melted paraffin. Care should be taken to cover only the side of the lip—none should be put on the upper surface. This can be accomplished most easily by using a small hog-hair brush and a wax of low melting point, such as is used for embedding sections. It will be found that besides preventing the solution trickling down the outside, it enables one to deliver the reagent easily in single drops without resorting to the plan of only partly withdrawing the stopper.—*Monthly Journal of Popular Science*.

DEODORIZATION OF IODOFORM.—Mr. O. R. Symmes, druggist, of Oswego, Kan., writes us as follows:—For the benefit of the craft I will say that I find that oil of coriander will completely deodorize iodoform, when used in an ointment to the extent of 1 minum to the grain of iodoform. The smell may also be removed from the hands by putting a drop or two of oil of coriander on the hands and then washing them thoroughly.

DEODORIZING OILS.—A process for decolorizing vegetable oils has been patented in England. The specific claims being made are:—

1. The process of decolorizing vegetable oils by mixing an oil with a suitable proportion of a manganese soap or a fatty acid salt of manganese and blowing a current of air or oxygen into the mixture, substantially as described.

2. The process of decolorizing vegetable oils by mixing an oil with a suitable proportion of manganese soap or a fatty acid salt of manganese mixed with a suitable solvent and blowing a current of air or oxygen into the mixture, substantially as described.

3. The process of decolorizing vegetable oils by mixing an oil with a suitable proportion of a manganese soap or a fatty acid salt of manganese mixed with linseed oil and blowing a current of air or oxygen into the mixture, substantially as described.

EXTRACTUM DICENTRÆ FLUIDUM.—Chas. E. Hammerquist made a number of comparative experiments with the view of determining the best menstruum for fluid extract of Turkey corn. The one directed by the "National Formulary," viz.: 3 vols. of alcohol and 1 of water, yields a good fluid extract in which, however, some precipitation takes place. If prepared with alcohol the fluid extract was lighter in color, and less bitter, but remained clear. Made with a menstruum of 4 vols. of alcohol and one of water, a clear fluid extract was also obtained, and proved to be satisfactory in all respects. Other menstrua gave less satisfactory results than the above.