

Let me say a word about Aqua Aurantii with reference to the discussion lately about its strength. I have always understood that distilled waters were saturated solutions of the principles which distil over with the water. The question of dilution is one merely of expense, and must not be entertained with reference to the B. P. water. Let me also insist on the using the Aqua Anethi as distilled from the seeds. It is quite a different article from that prepared by rubbing up the oil, which although good enough at first, becomes quite vapid in a very short time so as to be quite unfit for the purpose it is mostly put to, viz., a carminative for infants. I am induced to mention this from having accidentally come across the vapid article several times lately. The same remark applies to Aq. Cinnamoni as prepared by distillation and by rubbing with the oil.

Emp. Belladonnæ is directed to be made by a very roundabout process. The simpler way would be to introduce into the Pharmacopœia an alcoholic extract of the leaves, or perhaps, better, of the root, an article which is sent out by the London houses, and to dilute this with the resin plaster.

We have two Essences, Anise and Peppermint, about which I have only to say that I think them too strong. Half the strength would be much more convenient.

Ext. Cinch. Flav. Liquid.—I have to repeat an old objection to the strength of this preparation. I find that it throws down in a short time a large mass of crystalline deposit, showing that it cannot retain all the active principles in solution. Would it not be well to reduce the strength, and that of Sarsa as well, to the standard of the other liquid extracts, viz., one ounce of the substance to one fluid ounce of the extract? Ext. Ergotæ Liquid.—It is generally admitted that the washing with ether may be dispensed with, more especially if cold instead of hot water be used. I find cold answers quite well; indeed, the extract made with it is, I think, richer than that made with hot, and I have medical testimony that it is quite as powerful. It is advisable to digest the ergot in it twice or even three times. The liquid aqueous extracts one would expect to prove a most important and useful class of preparations, but in my experience they are somewhat unsatisfactory from their all throwing down in a comparatively short time a large quantity of muddy deposit. Probably in some cases this is inert, yet we cannot always be sure of this, and, at least, it involves considerable loss. The same remark applies to the concentrated infusions, which are a similar class of preparations, and which of late years have almost forced themselves by irresistible considerations of expediency on chemists. I may mention while on these preparations, that I have been very successful in making most of those in common use by cold water percolation. The substance should be in moderately fine powder, and digested for twenty-four hours in enough water to wet it thoroughly, then set to percolate slowly with more water.