

Colored Fires.

"Although the manufacture of colored fires may not properly be included in the practice of pharmacy, the druggist is frequently called upon to prepare them.

"The following formulas are designed for making fires suitable for theatrical illuminations, street parades, etc., which are the kinds usually required to be made by druggists. In the manufacture of fireworks a great variety of colored fires are made, but their formulas are not important to the druggist.

"In making colored fires it is necessary to observe some precaution in powdering and mixing the materials. The substances should be separately powdered, then mixed by means of a wooden spatula, and the mixture kept in tin cans away from moisture or heat. The sulphur directed is sometimes omitted from the formula on account of its disagreeable vapor, but it is not generally objectionable in the quantities used.

BLUE FIRE.

Dark blue may be made by taking :

Sulphur	1 ounce.
Burnt alum	1 ounce.
Carbonate of copper.....	1 ounce.
Chlorate of potassium.....	4 ounces.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Powder the drugs fine and mix with the shellac in moderately coarse powder.

Light blue may be made by taking :

Sulphur	1 ounce.
Burnt alum	2 ounces.
Chlorate of potassium.....	4 ounces.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Mix the same as the preceding.

GREEN FIRE.

Dark green may be made by taking :

Nitrate of barium	4 ounces.
Boric acid.....	1 ounce.
Chlorate of potassium	3 ounces.
Sulphur	1 ounce.
Shellac	2 ounces.

Powder the drugs fine and mix with the shellac in moderately coarse powder.

Light green may be made by taking :

Carbonate of barium.....	2 ounces.
Sulphur	1 ounce.
Chlorate of potassium.....	4 ounces.
Shellac	2 ounces.

Mix as the preceding.

RED FIRE.

Dark red may be made by taking :

Nitrate of strontium.....	6 ounces.
Chlorate of potassium.....	2 ounces.
Sulphur	1 ounce.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Powder the drugs fine and mix with the shellac in moderately coarse powder.

Light red or pink may be made by using only half the quantity of the nitrate of strontium, or as follows :

Chalk	2 ounces.
Sulphur	1 ounce.
Chlorate of potassium.....	3 ounces.
Charcoal	1 ounce.
Nitrate of potassium.....	3 ounces.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Powder and mix as the preceding.

VIOLET FIRE.

Burnt alum	1 ounce.
Carbonate of potassium	1 ounce.
Sulphur	1 ounce.

Chlorate of potassium.....	4 ounces.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Powder the drugs fine and mix with the shellac in moderately coarse powder.

WHITE FIRE.

Nitrate of potassium	8 ounces.
Charcoal.....	1 ounce.
Sulphur	1 ounce.
Shellac	1 ounce.

YELLOW FIRE.

Sulphur	1 ounce.
Dried carbonate of sodium.....	2 ounces.
Chlorate of potassium.....	5 ounces.
Shellac	1 ounce.

Powder and mix as the preceding.

"The foregoing are all the colored fires that are generally required for theatrical illuminations, street parades, etc., but a great variety of other colors may be made by variously combining them, and many shades of color may be made by varying the quantity of the ingredients used.

LIQUID COLORED FIRES OR FLAMES.

"These may be made by dissolving certain substances to saturation in alcohol or other liquids which will dissolve them, and burn rapidly. They are best ignited in a shallow iron pan, which, for safety, should be set in a shallow pan of water. Considerable caution is required in burning these liquids, that accidents may be prevented.

"The substances used should be finely powdered and triturated with the alcohol in a mortar.

"Blue may be made by dissolving acetate of zinc in alcohol; green, by dissolving boric acid in alcohol; red, by dissolving nitrate of strontium in alcohol, or by making a strong tincture of lycopodium; violet, by dissolving carbonate of potassium in alcohol; yellow, by dissolving nitrate of sodium in alcohol; white, by dissolving camphor in alcohol.

"Another method of exhibiting colored fires, and perhaps the best of all, is to mix the finely powdered substances which produce the colors, as above, with a moderately thick solution of shellac in alcohol. They are thus suspended, and when burned give forth their characteristic color."—*Formulary.*

Therapeutics of Damiana.

The therapeutics of damiana seems to have progressed from the merely empirical stage to a point where it can be prescribed with something like scientific accuracy. Though slower in action, it is analogous to strychnia in effect, but more tonic than the latter. On the bowels it promotes increased peristalsis, causing 1 or 2 mushy stools per day, and it is an effective remedy in the habitual constipation of neurotic subjects, especially of those who are victims of sexual perversion. Increased diuresis follows its use, and many cases of irritable bladder and urethra are very greatly benefited by it. On the heart, also, it acts as a tonic sedative equal in some cases of functional disturbance to cactus grandiflorus. From the above resume, it is plain why damiana has proven so efficacious in cases of nerve

exhaustion resulting from sexual excesses, and why, far from being a direct stimulant of erotic desires, it has been found to act as a sedative to abnormal sexual appetite. In short, it is not a "specific," but its so-called specific action is but the result of its general tonic effect.—*Cleveland Med. Journal.*

Hazel-Nut Oil.

This oil has recently been examined and appears to be almost, if not quite, as useful for medicinal purposes, as almond oil. It possesses a mild taste and smell and is of a bright yellow colour. It is not a drying oil. Its specific gravity is .9161. With the elaidin test it gives a firm yellowish mass. It contains a small quantity of free fatty acids, one gramme neutralising .0035 gramme of potash. Its saponification equivalent is 191.4, and its iodine absorption 83.2. It becomes solid at 20° and becomes liquid again at 4°. The fatty acids solidify at 9° and melt at 17°. They do not give the colour reactions of the acids of almond oil.—*Pharm. Zeitung.*

Against the Code.

A lady not feeling so well as she liked, went to consult a physician. "Well," said the doctor, after looking at her tongue, feeling her pulse, and asking her sundry questions, "I should like to advise you—ahem!—to get married."

"Are you single, doctor?" inquired the fair patient, with a significant smile.

"I am, my dear lady; but it is not etiquette, you know, for physicians to take their own prescriptions."—*Medical Bulletin.*

Tolpyrin and Antipyrin.

These homologues, obtained in similar manners, resemble each other greatly. An easy method of distinguishing them is, therefore, useful. A weak solution of tolpyrin is rendered turbid by the addition of soda solution, whilst antipyrin is only precipitated in strong solutions. If a mixture of tolpyrin with antipyrin is suspected, the melting point will indicate it, since it melts below the melting point of antipyrin.—*Pharm. Zeitung.*

Caffeine-Chloral.

Chloral possesses the well-known property of most aldehydes, of combining with feebly basic compounds, such as formamide, uric acid, cyanogen, &c. It does so with caffeine. The compound so formed appears to be very useful in relieving constipation. The compound occurs in colorless tables, easily soluble in water. Professor Ewald, of Berlin, has used it in hypodermic solution, in doses of .2 to .3 gramme at a time, given two or three times a day.—*Journal de Pharmacie d'Autvers.*

KURO-MOJI OIL is the volatile oil of a Japanese *Lauracea*, the *Lindera forficata*.