

The bruising, as directed above, of the moistened powder, before the preliminary maceration may appear superfluous, but such is not the case, as I have found it to afford better results than are obtained when this part of the process is omitted. Bruising the moistened powder seems to have the effect of enabling the menstruum to more readily penetrate the particles of the powder, and to exert its softening and solvent power with greater energy;—at least this is my belief, based upon close observation in oft-repeated workings of the process. Especially is this fact manifest when the percolation is proceeded with, omitting the twenty-four hours' preliminary maceration. The latter, however, I consider an important part of the process, as without it, when such bulky substances are treated, thorough and exhaustive percolation, always so desirable, is difficult to be attained.

I cannot see any good reason why so alcoholic a menstruum as is employed in the officinal formula should be used in making this tincture. Diluted alcohol is a better solvent for the active properties of arnica than the officinal menstruum, and is cheaper. Besides, it makes a deeper-coloured and richer-looking preparation, and for the great majority of cases in which the tincture of arnica is externally employed, a less alcoholic tincture would be better adapted and more desirable.

The tincture is much used in the treatment of cases where the cuticle is abraded or very sensitive, and as a lotion for cuts and inflamed surfaces, and in all such cases, the strongly alcoholic character of the officinal tincture is objectionable; while in all cases of rheumatism, sprains, etc., for which the tincture is so frequently used, it would be equally efficient if made with diluted alcohol.

I would propose to the committee to whom will be delegated the work of revision of our next Pharmacopœia, the propriety of substituting diluted alcohol as the menstruum for tincture of arnica for that employed in our present Pharmacopœia. It would be a change which I think the profession generally would heartily approve.

The physiological action of arnica flowers do not seem to have ever been carefully and fully investigated. They are certainly worthy of more attention at the hands of the therapist than they ever received.

As an internal remedy I know but little of their physiological action, excepting what is vaguely stated in our text books, but of their use as an external remedy, in the form of a tincture, infusion, etc., I am better prepared to speak, and am fully convinced of their value in rheumatism, sprains, bruises, etc., and in relieving the pain, swelling, and the soreness of injured parts. In fact, no remedy devoid of merit could ever have attained the almost universal popularity that arnica has acquired in its various preparations. It is largely employed in regular practice, while in domestic practice it is almost universally used. Many families buy the flowers and make